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THE TIMES



No. 64,607 THURSDAY APRIL 1 1993 45p

One refugee child, left behind, is given a helping hand to freedom



Wait for me: This little Muslim boy, terrified and screaming, fell from a UN truck on the journey to Tuzla. But Major Vlado Dakic, of the Bosnian Serb army, picked him up and placed him back into the women's arms

BR braced for total shutdown

By Philip Bassett
 Industrial Editor

BRITISH Rail will begin shutting down its network tonight after talks yesterday failed to avert the 24-hour strike due to start at midnight. Services appear likely to be virtually halted by the Rail Maritime and Transport union's strike over jobs, which coincides with a 24-hour stoppage by miners over pit closures and a one-day strike by London bus crews.

Widespread traffic disruption is expected, especially in London, where there are fears of unofficial action by Underground workers. Business leaders have accepted that many employees will have to work from home tomorrow, and the government appealed to commuters not to travel to the capital, even though it has arranged emergency parking.

BR said it was unlikely that there would be enough trains to provide a reliable service and no overnight services will operate this evening. People travelling tonight are advised to use trains due to reach their destinations by 10 o'clock as BR concentrates its efforts on trying to ensure that trains are in the right place for a smooth resumption of services on Saturday.

The NUM wants people to support rail, pit and bus workers in a general strike. Even if the call goes unheeded, many desks will be unoccupied tomorrow

unday. Passengers will be able to apply for refunds on unused tickets or seat reservations, and season tickets will valid for an extra day.

The strike is going ahead after BR refused yesterday to give the RMT guarantees against compulsory redundancy.

dancies. Jimmy Knapp, the RMT general secretary, said: "The doors are closed as far as Friday is concerned." BR described the strike as senseless, and Paul Watkinson, group personnel director, said: "It seems to me they are bent on a course for Friday, which is not going to be turned." The strike could cost £10 million in lost revenue.

Because of employment laws prohibiting sympathy strikes, RMT leaders have been careful to keep the rail strike apart from the miners' action, but Mr Watkinson clearly linked the two yesterday, saying: "They have said there are some things they are concerned about on the railway, but as we all know there are other agendas."

British Coal expects the miners' stoppage to be widely supported, and leaders of the National Union of Mineworkers are calling for all workers to join in a general strike. But Gillian Shephard, the employ-

ment secretary, said: "I don't think strikes are a very effective way of making a point." Companies have already been urged by the Institute of Management to let their staff work from home tomorrow or to have the day off, and yesterday the CBI took a similar line. It said that while employers would expect staff to make every effort to get into work, many would take a flexible view of starting and finishing times. "Where it is impossible for employees to get to work, many employers will accept that those who are able to work from home should do so."

Steven Norris, transport minister for London, urged people to take work home tonight and stay there tomorrow. Those who had to travel should take their cars into central London only if they knew where to park legally.

Contingency arrangements for the day include free parking for coaches and buses in Battersea and Victoria parks; emergency car parks in Docklands, with an increased Riverbus service to the city centre; a ban on moving abnormal loads by road in London; and vigorous enforcement of parking and waiting restrictions.



Man jailed for double murder

A VAN driver aged 25 was jailed for life yesterday for the murder of Alison Marwaring and her father, Matthew. A jury at the Old Bailey convicted Benjamin Laing unanimously of the double murder, and the judge recommended that he serve at least 25 years.

Relatives and friends of the Marwaring family cheered and wept at the announcement. The judge said that Laing was a "dangerous man, capable of extreme violence."

The court found that Laing shot Matthew Marwaring, 62, with a sawn-off shot gun last April while pretending to want to buy a car. He tortured and strangled Alison, 25, a bank clerk, when she arrived home. Then he dismembered their bodies in the bathroom, cutting each into seven pieces.

Nine crushed to death in stampede for convoy

FROM JOEL BRAND IN TUZLA

AT LEAST seven children and two women were killed yesterday as more than 2,000 desperate Bosnian Muslims, many piled on top of each other, fled the besieged community of Srebrenica in a United Nations convoy.

Thousands of people fought and struggled for their lives, trying to clamber aboard 12 trucks leaving the town. The refugees, trapped in the 11-month siege by rebel Serbs, believed they would die or be killed if they stayed. Thousands have died there, many from starvation and lack of medical attention.

fell on my cousin, and then more people fell on her," she said. "She couldn't get up because there were so many people." After an hour her cousin died. Each truck carried close to 200 people - an unbelievable number for the size of the vehicles. At Tuzla's morgue, one woman, in a purple shawl, had a bruised and bloodied cheek; she had been trapped and crushed. A dead baby, seven or eight months old, purple and con-

torted, was still wrapped in a thick wool blanket. A boy, in his early teens, had died in his struggle for air. His fingers were still clenched and his eyes distended.

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees had been hoping that they could calm the traumatised people of Srebrenica by delivering a steady stream of aid. But it is clearly too late.

Moscow veto, page 13

RAISED IN THE HIGHLANDS.



THE FAMOUS GROUSE
 FINEST SCOTCH WHISKY

QUALITY IN AN AGE OF CHANGE.

Iraq arms enquiry to invite Thatcher

By Michael Dynes and Christopher Elliott

JOHN Major, Baroness Thatcher, and Alan Clark, the former defence minister, will be asked to give evidence to the judicial enquiry into arms related exports to Iraq, Lord Justice Scott said yesterday.

This will be the first time that a former prime minister and her successor will be required to account for their actions in this way.

Lord Justice Scott made it clear that he was not seeking evidence to begin more criminal proceedings, but was intent on establishing the extent of government knowledge about arms sales after the collapse of the Matrix Churchill trial last November. Ministers and civil servants have been granted blanket immunity from the threat of criminal

prosecution arising out of evidence given to the enquiry, in an attempt to conduct a full and frank examination of the details of government arms exports, the judge said.

Officers of both M15 and M16, who have knowledge of intelligence-gathering in the arms trade, will be asked to give evidence. But senior members of the services, including Sir Colin McColl, the head of M16, and Sir Patrick Walker, the former head of M15, are unlikely to appear.

Evidence to the enquiry will be heard in public unless there was some "overriding national security reason" that it be held behind closed doors. In

Continued on page 2, col 7

Recession probably over, says Bank governor

By Sheila Gunn, Political Correspondent

BRITAIN's economy should recover during the coming year, Robin Leigh-Pemberton, governor of the Bank of England, said yesterday, acknowledging that the recession is probably over.

Although he maintained his customary caution, he told the Commons Treasury committee that he detected "encouraging trends". He also, however, played down further cuts in interest rates.

Asked about economic prospects, the governor, who retires in June, said: "I do not think it is possible to be certain that the recession is over, but it seems to me that we have enough indicators to suggest that in all probability it is, and that there will also be a degree

of recovery in the economy during this coming year."

Mr Leigh-Pemberton cited higher retail sales, stronger exports, increasing activity in the housing market and forecasts for growth of more than 1 per cent as evidence for a more optimistic view. "So I do think that we are able to identify reasonably encouraging trends at the moment."

On the prospects for a further cut in the 6 per cent interest rate, he said that banks and building societies might not pass on an additional cut to borrowers because of concern for depositors and savers.

MPs later exchanged insults with Norman Lamont, the Chancellor, when he appeared

before the committee. Labour MPs accused him of telling lies and of "betrayal" over Treasury figures and tax increases.

Mr Lamont dismissed as fiction speculation that the Treasury is looking for a £2 billion cut in public spending to help to reduce the public sector borrowing requirement. The Chancellor also rejected the accusations of continental finance ministers and central bankers that Britain was engaged in "competitive devaluation" to help the economy rise out of recession. He favoured a stronger rather than a weaker currency, he told the committee.

Gifts auction, page 23

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MATTHEW PARRIS
POLITICAL SKETCH

A piece of history in the breaking

Grilling the Chancellor at his appearance yesterday before the treasury select committee, Labour's Brian Sedgemore asked whether the errors in recent estimates for the PSBR did not constitute "an unprecedented deception". Several Tories shook their heads. Clearly audible from one was a chuckle. "No, just a routine deception."

Perhaps politicians should index their deceptions under Routine, Serious and Unprecedented.

They might do the same with pledges. "I give you this historic pledge," said Cecil Parkinson to cheering delegates at the 1988 Tory conference, pausing while we wrote it down. Mr Parkinson was determined that we distinguish this pledge from his humdrum ones. "Coal will be privatised!" he declared.

He was energy secretary then. It was nearly five years ago. His pledge gets more historic by the month, though not in the way he intended. Nevertheless, Michael Heseltine has repeated that British Coal is to be sold off.

Heseltine was not in the Lords, yesterday, to hear Lord Wakeham offering the nation a prospectus. As energy secretary, Wakeham privatised electricity. He knows a bit about it.

There now follows (we might say an advertisement for the sale to the private sector of British Coal).

Coal as a fuel, said our last energy secretary and present House leader to fellow-peers, "has been in continuous decline for 70 years". Employment in coal mining in the 12 EC member states "has fallen from 1.86 million jobs in 1955 to 260,000 in 1991". Last we supposed that this was the result of increased mechanisation, Lord Wakeham added that over the same period production had fallen from 500 million tonnes to 184 million.

And there was more good

news. Our partners were pointing the way. "The last coal mine in Belgium is due to close in 1997," France, he added, was closing all its northern collieries, and expected to have no coal industry at all by 2005.

Lord Wakeham now turned to optimists who saw in Germany some ray of hope for European coal. Though heavily subsidised, he said, jobs in German coal mining had reduced "from 600,000 to 125,000".

His lordship's next remarks seemed designed for those who supposed that, if our EC partners were turning their backs on coal mining, Britain might fill the gap.

No hope of that. Coal from outside Europe was incredibly cheap by comparison with ours. "Coal from abroad," he said, could be landed at the Thames docks at £1.15-£1.30 per tonne. Ours costs £2 per tonne, "or more".

Now was all this cheap foreign coal opencast. Even though our own productivity had doubled over seven years, Britain's productivity was still only "20-35 per cent of American and Australian deep-mined coal". Our costs were "two to three times higher".

Wondering whether the Tories have got something against coal, I looked back to the October debate, in which Lord Marsh spoke. Marsh had been a Labour minister of power in Harold Wilson's government. He puts it like this: "A benevolent mixture of good intentions and massive subsidies" cannot, he says, "reverse the market trend" against coal. "Coal will never be the major, or a major, element in any sensible energy policy."

Tear out this coupon and send it with your cheque to: HM GOVERNMENT'S COAL PRIVATISATION OFFER.

Church financial chief admits investment mistakes



Sir Douglas: oversaw big fall in assets

BY RUTH GLEDHILL
RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

THE senior Church of England official in charge of finances admitted for the first time yesterday that errors in financial management had contributed to losses of millions of pounds in the value of church assets.

Speaking on his last day in office, Sir Douglas Lovelock, head of the Church Commissioners, who managed the church's £2.36 billion assets, said that the commissioners had decided to invest heavily in commercial property "at the wrong moment", contributing to a £500 million fall in value. In an interview with *The Times*, Sir Douglas said it was "a mistake we made which we can now see with hindsight".

He said that the error was only partly responsible for the fall in asset values from £3 billion to £2.5 billion in 1989-

90. The property slump and the big increases in interest rates in the late 1980s were equally responsible.

Sir Douglas, the first Church Estates Commissioner, appealed for more donations from church members as he vacated his seat for his successor, Sir Michael Colman, who takes over today. Sir Michael, chairman of Reckitt and Colman, is the first businessman to take a post traditionally held by a civil servant.

Last month, Sir Douglas gave evidence to the group set up by the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr George Carey, to review the performance of the commissioners. The group is considering asking the accountants Coopers & Lybrand to examine borrowings and asset management.

Sir Douglas said: "We had had enormous successes. We bought the Metro shopping centre in Gateshead

in the mid-1980s. We failed to perceive that commercial property... was going to have a very difficult few years." The purchases were financed by about £400 million of borrowing, most of which had been repaid, he said. "We borrowed money to finance it at the wrong moment. We failed to perceive that interest rates would go up very alarmingly."

Before celebrating his departure after ten years with colleagues at the commissioners' headquarters in Millbank, central London, Sir Douglas said that astute stock market investment had kept income stable, despite the fall in assets. More than £1.4 billion of assets are in property, the rest in investments.

He urged an increase in giving from an average of £2.50 a person each week, saying that an extra 50p would solve the present financial difficulties.

Sir Michael, who will remain chairman of Reckitt and Colman, said: "I am by nature a bit of an experimenter for the church." He said that he had no intention of maintaining the status quo. The 1980s had been a period of enormous prosperity for the church, with clergy pensions increasing three times and stipends 2½ times, outpacing increases in the Retail Price Index.

"We are not going to help our financial problems by going round with a begging bowl," he said. "We have got to provide the service that people want. They want priests appointed to their churches who identify with their lives and make them feel restored in their faith."

If churchgoers were given what they wanted, the financial difficulties would solve themselves, he said. "We cannot separate the financial problems from the church's problems."

Guernsey crews refuse more talks with French

FROM NICHOLAS WATT IN ST PETER PORT

GUERNSEY fishermen rejected attempts by French trawlermen yesterday to reopen talks on a truce in their dispute over fishing rights around the Channel Islands.

They accused the French of stoking up a climate of fear and said that they wanted no further contact until all threats were withdrawn.

Earlier, Royal Navy officers from HMS *Brocksby*, a fisheries protection vessel, boarded two French boats for a routine inspection west of Guernsey. Both boats were fishing legally for sea bass and the inspections were carried out peacefully. No French boats were seen in the disputed waters of the Scholte Bank, to the east of Guernsey and south of Alderney, where only 37 named French craft are allowed to fish.

Bill Ogier, president of the Guernsey Fishermen's Association, said: "We will only consider communication with the French through official government channels until all threat of illegal blockade is moved and the French fishermen acknowledge the British authorities' rights to police British waters."

Mr Ogier said that the French had distorted the out-

come of Monday's meeting when they claimed that they were free to fish in the disputed area in return for allowing Guernsey fishermen to land their catches in France. "We are aggrieved at the misrepresentation by the French fishermen of our discussion," he said.

As Guernsey fishermen loaded two boats last night to take their catches to France for the first time since Monday's talks, French officials said they were disappointed that the friendliness had evaporated. Marie-Claire Saingourd, the French consul-general on the Channel Islands, said - in a direct contradiction of Britain's position - that she was in favour of settling the dispute at a local level. "Of course the fishermen cannot change the law. But last year's agreement said that if there are disagreements between the two sides, the parties should meet," she said.

French fishermen accused the agriculture ministry yesterday of misrepresenting its talks with French government officials in Paris. David Curry, the fisheries minister, said on Tuesday that French officials had joined Britain in rejecting Monday's informal deal.

Beatrice Harmel, general secretary of the Lower Normandy Committee of Fishermen, said: "That is quite wrong. The British government is lying and they do not understand the situation. I was at the talks in Paris and the officials were very happy that my members met the Guernsey fishermen. They said it was very important to keep up contacts."



Sounding out: David Tully, ten, of West Wickham, Kent, during auditions yesterday at the Queen Elizabeth Hall, London, for a July festival

Downing St reassurance on bugging

BY RICHARD FORD
HOME CORRESPONDENT

THE government attempted yesterday to clear the security services of involvement in recordings of intimate telephone conversations of the Prince and Princess of Wales.

John Major's bid to end persistent rumours that the recordings came originally from the intelligence services came as reports on phone tapping and the security services were published.

Although neither report directly mentions the tapes, Downing Street highlighted two passages which, officials claimed, showed that the security services had not bugged calls from the Prince of Wales to Camilla Parker Bowles, or any between the Princess of Wales and James Gilbey.

The reports themselves offer no such reassurance. In his report on phone tapping, Sir Thomas Bingham, Master of the Rolls, says that the tribunal set up to vet tapping procedures found no serious breaches. He said: "I have found no case in which the statutory restrictions were deliberately evaded or corners knowingly cut."

Sir Thomas says that no contravention of the regulations governing phone tapping had been found in the 53 complaints it investigated. The report does not say whether it investigated allegations surrounding the interception of phone calls made by the Prince and Princess of Wales.

In a separate report on the security service, Lord Justice Stuart-Scott referred to speculation that members of the service might be "carrying out operations involving unlawful interference with property, such as installing eavesdropping devices."

He says he cannot say for sure whether such operations took place because if they existed, they would be concealed as far as possible. But he added: "It is my opinion that such operations are not undertaken."

NEWS IN BRIEF

B&Q loses appeal on Sunday trading

DIY chainstore B&Q lost its appeal in the House of Lords yesterday against a High Court ruling upholding Sunday shopping restrictions. The European Court of Justice last year ruled that the restrictions did not breach EC law.

The judgment marks the end of the road for that particular line of litigation over Sunday trading. But new avenues of litigation are pending, and the government has plans to bring forward a white paper reforming the law, despite widespread opposition among MPs to total deregulation.

Four employees who lost their jobs at B&Q in Dewsbury, West Yorkshire, after the store was closed on Sundays are bringing an action to be heard in the High Court on April 21. Tesco and Texas Homecare have been granted leave to seek judicial review of the way two local authorities are seeking to enforce the Sunday trading laws in England.

Clampdown on raves

Police are to get new powers against new-age travellers, rave-goers and itinerants. They will be able to break up convoys of six vehicles and impose a five-mile exclusion zone around an illegal rave. The trespass law is to become a criminal rather than civil offence if a person refuses to leave a site where more than ten have gathered and police believe they will anger neighbours. The Country Landowners' Association welcomed the proposals but criticised the government for failing to bring in the laws before summer.

Terrorists plan book

Two Irish terrorists from opposing sides who married in jail last week plan to write a book about their activities. Anne Moore, 47, a republican, is serving life for her part in the killing of 17 people, 11 of them in an INLA bombing. Bobby Corry, 42, is serving life for the murder of a Catholic in a Belfast bar bombing. They married at Maghaberry prison, Co. Antrim. Ken Kerr, a Londonderry Democratic Unionist councillor, said: "This book won't be written with ink. It will be written with the blood of the people they murdered."

Rantzen award cut

A jury's award of £250,000 libel damages to Esther Rantzen, presenter of *That's Life*, was cut to £110,000 in the Court of Appeal, which ruled the original figure excessive. Miss Rantzen, 52, founder of the charity Childline, won the damages from *The People* newspaper in 1991 after it accused her of keeping quiet about an alleged sex pervert.

Colleges go it alone

More than 480 further education and sixth-form colleges today severed their ties with town halls and became financially independent. John Patten, the education secretary, said the change would allow further education colleges to move centre stage with the government committed to providing 25 per cent more places by 1996.

ITN deal accepted

The future of News at Ten was secured when Carlton Communications announced that a £90 million rescue package for Independent Television News had been accepted. Michael Green, chairman of Carlton, which is leading a consortium bid, will become ITN chairman. He said he planned no changes in editorial content.

Stansted growth plans hit as American Airlines pulls out

BY HARVEY ELLIOTT, AIR CORRESPONDENT

AMERICAN Airlines is to pull out of Stansted airport after only nine months' operations during which it ran up losses of more than £7 million.

The airline said that loads on daily flights to Chicago had been consistently low and the service did not attract enough business travellers to make it a viable proposition.

The pull-out, which will mean the loss of 40 full- and part-time jobs, is a serious blow to the airport which, although growing fast, is handling well under half the number of passengers for which it is designed. The main problem has been the inability of the British and American governments to sign a new air services agreement which would enable American airlines to use the airport. Without such an agreement Stansted could be in danger of becoming an enormous and costly white elephant.

Under existing bilateral rules Stansted is treated as a London airport, alongside Heathrow and Gatwick. British and American airlines must share the available number of flights to what is effectively a single "London" gateway under a formula known as "Bernuda two". American Airlines was allowed to operate one extra daily flight from London to Chicago and, because Heathrow was full, chose to go to Stansted.

It was the first - and the only - long-haul airline to use the airport and was forced to fly to an American destination which was not its main home "hub" base where passengers

could transfer to other domestic flights. Hans Mirka, senior vice-president of American Airlines, said: "It is always difficult to make a success of a one-route operation and we received no encouragement from the British government that liberalisation of the rules governing the US destinations we could serve from Stansted was forthcoming."

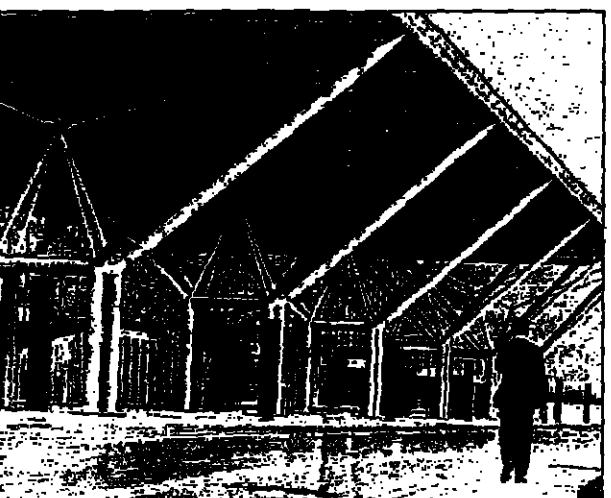
During its brief attempt to make operations from Stansted work, American carried 27,000 passengers to Chicago and during last month its load factors - the average number of passengers on board - was 46 per cent. Almost all the passengers, however, were flying on cut-price leisure tickets forcing the airline, which is already losing money heavily, further into the red. It will complete its pull-out at the end of next month.

Last year, 2.3 million passengers used Stansted's single

runway, a 38 per cent increase on 1991 but still well short of its five million capacity. Last year BAA invested £400 million in a gleaming new terminal which won international acclaim but which is now almost deserted for long periods.

A number of regional airlines, especially Air UK, have built up a network of short haul domestic and European services from Stansted but argue that they can only become really profitable if they can be linked with long-haul international services whose passengers can then transfer between airlines.

In spite of a 40-minute fast rail link to central London, enormous car parking space and excellent motorway links, Stansted, whose development began in 1942 when it was a base for US Army Air Force bombers, still remains unpopular with many travellers.



Flights of fancy: a heavily underused Stansted

Ministers support road-pricing

BY NICHOLAS WOOD
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

MOTORISTS could be paying to drive into London and other big cities by the end of the century, John MacGregor, the transport secretary, indicated yesterday when he released an independent report on the practicality of road-pricing.

The Newcastle University report concludes that although road-pricing is not yet feasible for the capital, rapid technical progress is being made.

Mr MacGregor made clear that there was growing ministerial support for one of the biggest motoring upheavals for many years. He suggested the possibility of road-pricing within this decade when he said it could take up to seven years to bring in the necessary legislation. The move, almost certain to extend to tolls on existing motorways, is tied up with the Budget emphasis on "green taxes" and measures to reduce public spending in the long term.

Transport officials said that the key finding of the report was that road-pricing technology was on the verge of a breakthrough. The most likely system would have vehicles fitted with an electronic tag that would be registered by a beacon on an overhead gantry. Cars would not have to stop as they passed charging boundaries and drivers could be billed.

Mr MacGregor said: "We have to consider new ways of preventing road congestion in London from getting worse as car ownership grows. Charging drivers for using the capital's crowded roads is one possible solution."

Iraq enquiry to invite Thatcher

Continued from page 1

addition, key witnesses will be able to have the cost of their legal representation met from public funds where deemed appropriate, the judge said.

Opposition spokesmen last gave a cautious welcome to the details but gave no sign that they would let up in their pursuit of an issue that rocked the Cabinet in the weeks after the trial collapsed.

Robin Cook, Labour's trade and industry spokesman, said: "I am pleased that Lord Justice Scott has decided to hold his hearings in public, and that he intends to call the key witnesses to the events surrounding the arming of Iraq in the late 1980s, including John Major and Baroness Thatcher."

Mark Gurneridge, whose role as an MI6 agent was revealed at the trial, said last night: "I just don't know what more civil servants are going to say if they are not under oath. At the trial they consistently said things like 'I don't remember' or 'I cannot recall' in answer to certain questions. I am just a bit concerned that it won't be any different."

Outlining how he intends to conduct the long-awaited public hearings into the arms-to-Iraq affair, the judge said that letters will be sent to all ministers, officials, and other individuals "inviting" them to co-operate. The hearings will start on May 4. The first witness is expected to be Sir Richard Luce, a former Foreign Office minister, and currently the vice-chancellor of Buckingham University. Witnesses will then be called from the government's export credit guarantee department, the defence ministry and other Whitehall departments.

In contrast to previous judicial enquiries, the bulk of evidence in the Scott enquiry will be contained in documents and written statements. Oral evidence will be required to obtain confirmation of some important point, while allowing witnesses to counter any criticisms of their conduct. In addition to the blanket immunity from prosecution granted to all witnesses, the government has also agreed to the suspension of the Official Secrets Acts, thereby enabling



Lord Justice Scott: to invite ministers

civil servants to give evidence about arms exports without violating their obligation of loyalty to the Crown.

Lord Justice Scott said that his principal interest was in "government knowledge of or complicity in" exports to Iraq in breach of the official guidelines. "It is not my function to enquire into the circumstances of illegal exports... unless it appears that those circumstances may involve participation or acquiescence on the part of government or government agencies," he said.

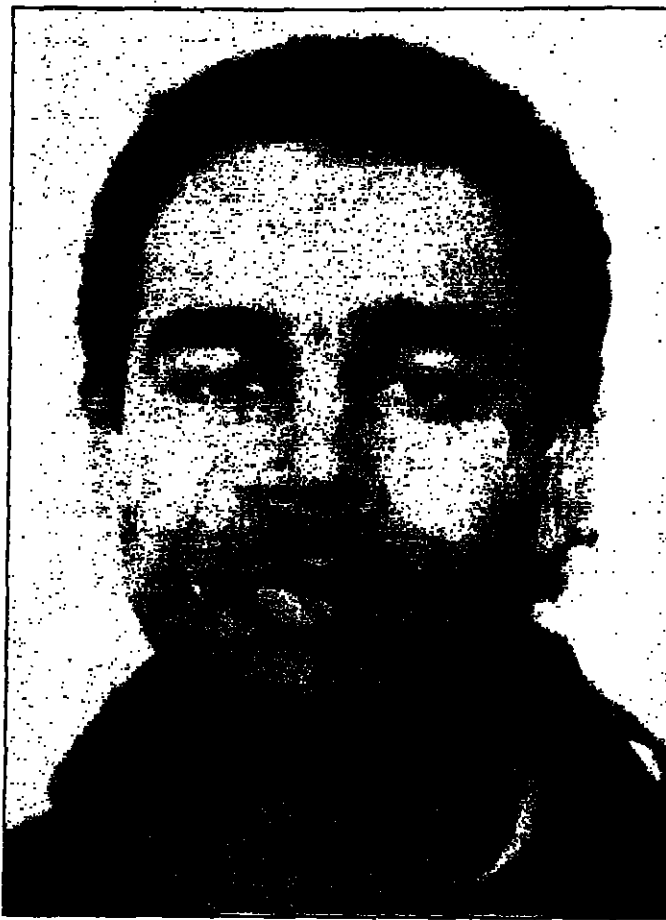
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Old Bailey in uproar as victims' family cheers...dict on man who killed for the sake of a car

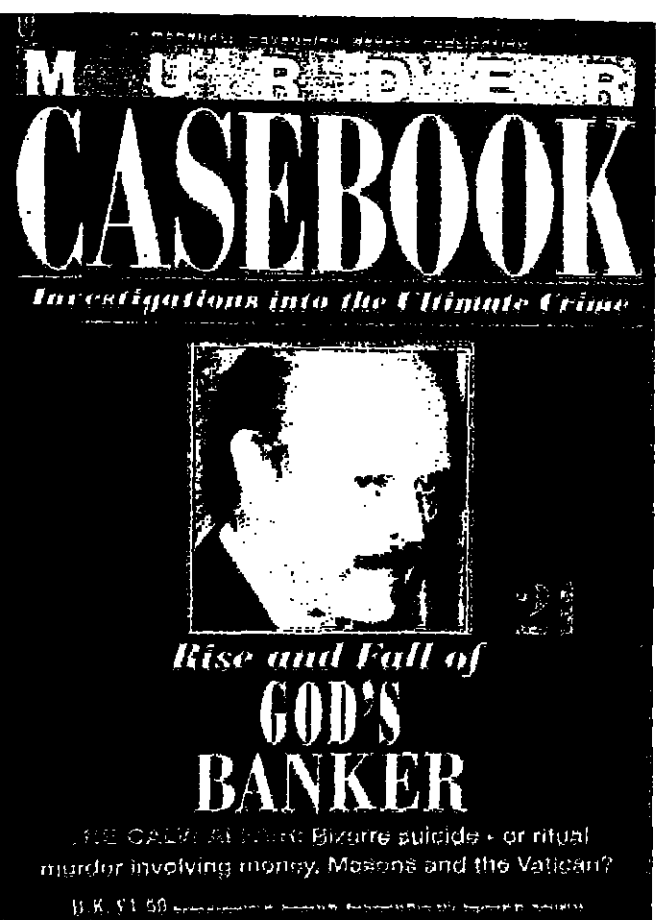
Manwarings' murderer is jailed for 25 years

By MICHAEL HORSNELL

CHEERING relatives of the murdered bank clerk Alison Manwaring and her father Matthew had to be cleared from the Old Bailey yesterday as the couple's killer was jailed for a minimum of 25 years. Benjamin Ekow Laing, 25, butchered Miss Manwaring and her father in their home last April for the sake of a £7,750 car and his ambition to commit the perfect murder. The public gallery was emptied after 30 cheering and weeping friends and relatives of the Manwarings erupted in spontaneous approval as the jury foreman announced a verdict of guilty on both counts of murder. Judge Lydney condemned the outbreak as disgraceful before telling Laing that he was a dangerous and pathological liar who had to pay a high price for his crimes. A man in the gallery shouted:



Murder casebook: Benjamin Laing was inspired to kill by a magazine article, right. Matthew and Alison Manwaring had the misfortune to advertise a car he coveted



Message that revealed name of an arrogant killer

By MICHAEL HORSNELL

IN A desperate attempt to leave a clue identifying her killer, Alison Manwaring may have left an acronym at the end of a letter she was forced to write to her brother Mark, which spelt out the name of 25-year-old Benjamin Laing. One theory was that the arrogance of Laing prompted him to put the words into the letter which he retyped, in an attempt to mock the police. But a senior detective in the case believes that it was probably an attempt by Alison to identify her tormentor. Laing, who had blasted frail Matthew Manwaring, 62, to death with a shotgun, forced the young bank clerk to write a letter to her brother telling him she and her father were depressed and had gone into hiding. But Alison's handwriting was too shaky and after he had disposed of the bodies Laing typed it and forged her signature, ending with the capitalised words: Love Always IN God. The initial letters named Laing as the killer but police

never really know the truth of their theory that Alison planted the clue or the alternative explanation suggested by prosecuting counsel Michael Stuart-Moore QC after the verdicts were delivered that Laing included the words as a bizarre calling card. Regarded by detectives as a potential serial killer, Laing is a highly intelligent criminal who took up the intellectual challenge of committing the perfect murder. He challenged the police in a battle of wits after drawing up a master plan for murder, although his arrogance ultimately proved his downfall. He left his fingerprints on a bag containing personal belongings he had stolen from the Manwarings, which he later dumped, and he was photographed by a security camera trying to draw money from a building society account in the name of Alison's brother Mark. He shot Matthew Manwaring and then tor-

advised his car for sale before flying on attachment to Cyprus and leaving his father to sell it. Laing's plan for the perfect murder, conceived months earlier, was inspired by an article in the magazine *Murder Casebook* about the killing of the Italian banker Roberto Calvi, who was found hanging under Blackfriars Bridge in June 1982. Calvi, known as God's banker because of his links with the Vatican, was at first thought to have committed suicide and his killers have



Bitter: Mark Manwaring, left, and Gordon Healis

never been found. The annotated article, which investigated "the ultimate crime", was found in Laing's bedroom with a blue exercise book in which he had written out a murder plot using passages from the publication. Although the plot was considerably adapted by the time of the Manwaring murders, Laing's own "ultimate crime" concentrated on making the murders appear to be a disappearance and possible suicide. For several days, police and relatives actually believed that Alison and her father had gone into hiding or been kidnapped or committed suicide. Laing, the son of the Ghanaian writer Kofi Laing, was born in Paisley and his mother is Scottish. He went to Ghana at the age of six, returning to England aged 11 before his parents divorced. His deeply religious mother has stood by him since his arrest, visiting him regularly in prison. He claims to have three A levels and an IQ of 150, three points short of genius level. Known to have had early

THE SENTENCE

"Rot in hell, you bastard." Laing, a former delivery driver with Selfridges, gave a V-sign as he was led away at the end of his six-week trial. Matthew Manwaring, 62, a widower, had let Laing into his house in Barking, Essex, on April 23 when he called to inspect a Ford Escort XR3i which Mr Manwaring's son Mark had advertised for sale. Laing, of Beckton, east London, shot him twice through the chest. When Miss Manwaring, 24, who was engaged to be married, arrived home, he tortured, sexually assaulted and strangled her. He dismembered the bodies and buried the remains in ten dustbin bags in his garden's garden in southeast London. Judge Lydney, the Common Sergeant of London, told Laing: "You murdered the two of them in their own home,

which they were entitled to regard as a refuge and sanctuary. You dismembered the bodies and buried them in an unhallowed hole in the ground. You showed an arrogance through this trial and no vestige of remorse or pity. You are a pathological liar and a clever one too. "You are a dangerous man, firstly because you are capable of extreme violence, secondly because you are capable of deceit and dishonesty, thirdly because you are utterly ruthless and fourthly because you have a clever and able mind."

Brother plans trust fund in memory

THE wanton destruction of the Manwaring family shattered the lives of two men - Gordon Healis, Alison's fiancé, and her brother Mark - whose first fearful act of remembrance after the discovery of the bodies was to cast flowers into the shallow grave in which she and her father were buried (Michael Horsnell writes). Miss Manwaring, who would have been 25 on the day her body was discovered last May 2, was a vivacious and popular woman employed by Barclays Bank in their life insurance department at Forest Gate, east London. Before that she was a clerical assistant in the X-ray department at Newham General Hospital where in 1986 she met her future fiancé, a hospital porter, who was born

in Guyana and came to Britain in 1982. Their relationship was not approved of by her mother Marie, but it thrived after her death from cancer. Music was their common interest, she playing several instruments, particularly the viola, and he sang with her at charity concerts for the hospital. She picked him up every day from his rented home in Gordon Road, Barking, in her red Metro and dropped him off to work, stopping to pick him up again at night. In 1988, she terminated a pregnancy but kept the news from her father and brother. On May 2, 1991, on her 24th birthday, the couple announced their engagement

and at the start of last year they bought a house in Kingston Road, Ilford. Miss Manwaring had a meal with Mr Healis, 32, at his flat on their last evening together before they drove to their new home to measure up for curtains. Mark Manwaring, 27, won a scholarship to RAF College Cranwell and passed out as a navigator with a Phantom squadron. He was based at RAF Watisham but before the murders flew to Cyprus. Before leaving, he placed an advertisement in the *Newham Recorder* for his Ford Escort XR3i and left the sale with his father. The brother now plans to launch a trust fund to help people with missing relatives know what to do to trace them. He also wants to launch a counselling service for relatives when a missing person is found dead and to help victims of miscarriages of justice. Mark Manwaring said: "It needs someone like us, who have been through what we went through when my father and sister disappeared, to give our experience to help others in a similar position."

Matthew Manwaring, 62, was the oldest of four brothers. He bought the family's terrace house in Aldersey Gardens, Barking in 1983. His wife died in 1987 and he retired early, a year later, from his job as a messenger with Lloyds Bank. He was known as a cheerful, methodical man who was very security conscious, locking all internal doors when he went out and at night. His brother Derek said: "Matt was a gentleman and a gentle man, kind, considerate and without malice."

Lovers and hitman guilty of trying to burn couple alive

By STEWART TENDLER CRIME CORRESPONDENT

TWO lovers who tried to murder a couple by sending them over a cliff, bound and trapped in a blazing car, were yesterday each sentenced to 18 years in prison. Passing sentence at Bristol crown court, Mr Justice Swinton Thomas said that neither Sheila Stroud nor Mark Evans had shown any remorse. He also sentenced Norman White to 18 years. He was hired as a hitman to help them in their plan to kill Ivor Stokle, Stroud's former common law husband, and his new girlfriend Pauline Leyshon. In the three-week trial, the jury was told that Stroud, 32, and Evans, 31, of Staunton near Tewkesbury, Gloucestershire, planned to kill the couple in an apparent motor accident at Barrow Wake and collect £138,000 insurance. Two weeks before the attempted murders, Stroud and Evans watched a TV film, *Fighting Mad*. The jury was shown a clip from the film in which a young couple were kidnapped, tied up and placed in their car, which was pushed over a quarry edge and set alight killing them. But fact did not mirror



Burns victims: Pauline Leyshon and Ivor Stokle

fiction. Mr Stokle and Mrs Leyshon managed to get free, their clothes ablaze. They spent two months in hospital with severe burns, which will require treatment for several years. The couple, who plan to marry later this year, sat holding each other yesterday as the judge described Stroud, a horse dealer, as the leader and planner, with Evans, unemployed, her henchman, and White, 30 and unemployed, from Gloucester, the hitman. He told the three they had committed a "horrible crime" in the "higher echelons of wickedness". Recalling the carefully planned plot, he said the

Court puts boy escaper back in care

By PAUL WILKINSON

A TEENAGE criminal who has escaped from care 25 times in two years was recaptured only hours before his latest court appearance, magistrates were told yesterday. The 14-year-old boy, who has 43 convictions, was a passenger in a stolen car that was in a head-on crash after driving through a pedestrian underpass, scattering people in all directions. Police arrested him and two others. He appeared before the juvenile panel at Gosforth, Tyne and Wear, and admitted aggravated vehicle taking and ten other offences including car theft, burglary and carrying an offensive weapon. The magistrates ordered a 12-month supervision order and returned the boy to the care of the local authority. The boy, who is too young to be identified, is also awaiting sentence for a serious sexual assault. The sentence was deferred earlier this month pending efforts to find him secure accommodation. Karen Graham, the boy's solicitor, told the magistrates yesterday that they had no power to send him to secure accommodation.

Memo

FROM: CHAIRMAN

TO: FINANCIAL DIRECTOR

RE: OUR MANAGEMENT INFORMATION PROBLEM

Is there not a world-class financial management system which we can implement across the group whether we downsize or not, and regardless of which computers and databases we are using?

That way local managers get flexibility, they're more accountable, and I get the corporate information I need.

John
CHAIRMAN

Yes there is - Only One!
I'll talk to QSP
a.s.a.p!
Peter

UNIVERSAL OLAS ACCOUNTING AND MANAGEMENT INFORMATION SYSTEMS AVAILABLE ON IBM MAINFRAMES AND UNIX SERVERS WITH THE LEADING RELATIONAL DATABASES.

PLEASE SEND ME FURTHER INFORMATION ON UNIVERSAL OLAS ☐ PLEASE SEND ME DETAILS OF UNIVERSAL OLAS EXECUTIVE SEMINARS ☐ PLEASE CONTACT ME TO ARRANGE A CONSULTATION ☐

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FOR FURTHER DETAILS CONTACT JENNY MURRAY, BY PHONE: 091 491 0670, BY FAX: 091 491 0690, OR BY POST TO: QUALITY SOFTWARE PRODUCTS, FREEPORT, GATSFIELD, TYNE AND WEAR, NE11 9BL.

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RICHARD FORD
CORRESPONDENT

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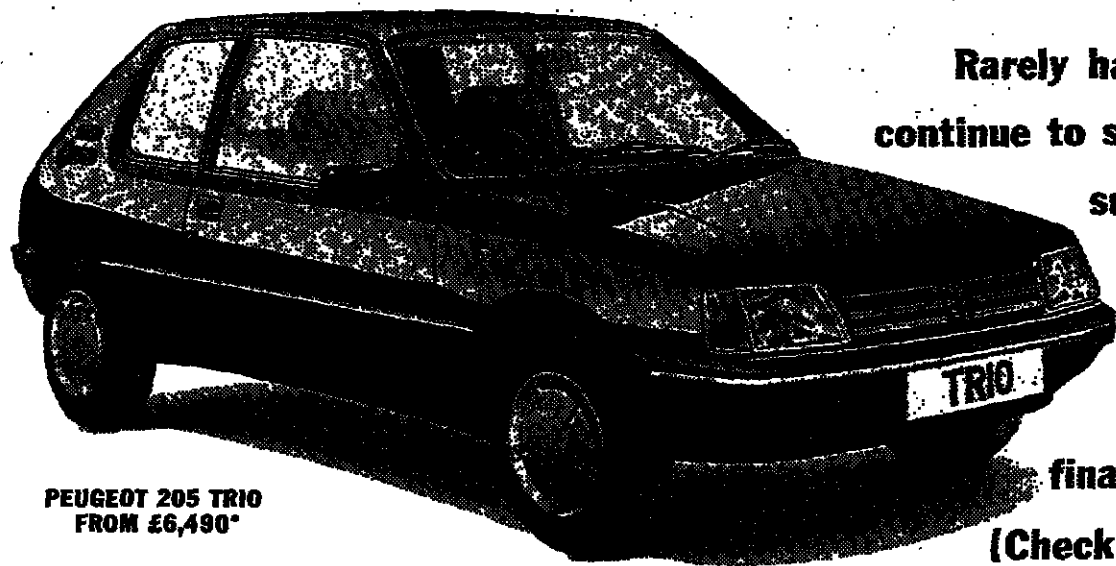
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ice Scott: to
ministers

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PEUGEOT 205.

The Classic Collection.



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FROM £6,490*

Rarely has any car been able to achieve classic status, let alone continue to set the style and pace whilst rivals come and go. There is such a car available today – The Peugeot 205.

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Chic and versatile, the 205 remains the ultimate in

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The Peugeot Price Assurance is our promise to you of a fairer way of doing business. With the introduction of our 1993 range of cars, we reduced the new car profit margin available to our Dealers and prices were reduced. This means that the prices that you see are the prices you should pay; there is no need to haggle over discounts. From now on customers can buy their new Peugeot with confidence, knowing that they will have a fair deal.

classic hatchback motoring.

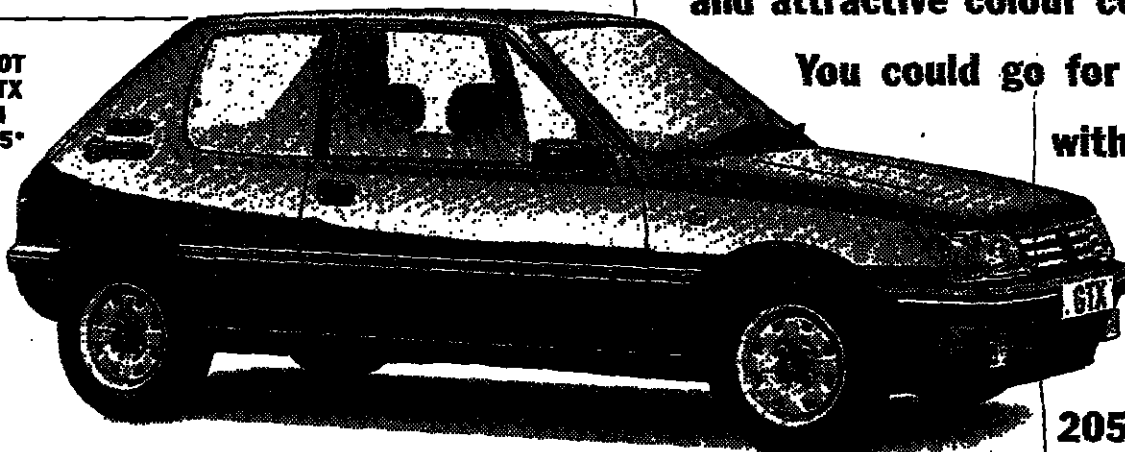
All 205 cars

are well equipped. There's a great range of petrol and diesel engines to choose from, and standard features on all models that include: 5-speed gearbox, stereo radio/cassette sound system and attractive colour co-ordinated interiors.



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PEUGEOT 205 GTX
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Or for youthful appeal choose the 205 Junior with its unique blue denim interior trim and leather

205 'Junior' patches on the front seats, special body

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APR/FLAT RATE	0.0%/0.0%	9.7%/4.9%
DEPOSIT	£3,510.00	£702.00
MONTHLY PAYMENTS	£292.50	£157.42
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Ruling hits Rescue America campaign

Court refuses to free abortion protester

By JEREMY LAURANCE, HEALTH SERVICES CORRESPONDENT

AN ATTEMPT to have the American anti-abortion campaigner Don Treshman released from custody failed yesterday, dealing a blow to plans for a week of US-style protests outside family planning and abortion organisations in Britain.

Mr Treshman, national director of Rescue America, a militant anti-abortion organisation, was arrested on Monday night, 24 hours after arriving in Britain. He was served with a deportation notice on the grounds that his presence was "not conducive to the public good".

Yesterday, lawyers for Mr Treshman, 49, asked a judge for bail pending an application for judicial review of the home secretary's "irrational and unfair" decision to make the deportation order. But Mr Justice Shiemann said it was not right that he should be treated differently from others challenging immigration decisions, including those who

had come from the Indian subcontinent, Africa or the West Indies, but who had received less publicity in the media.

The decision effectively means that Mr Treshman, who is being held in a Home Office detention centre at Gosport, Hampshire, will play no further part in the week of anti-abortion demonstrations planned for London. About 25 representatives of American organisations arrived at the weekend to link up with British supporters led by Father James Morrow and held their first picket outside the headquarters of the International Planned Parenthood Federation on Tuesday.

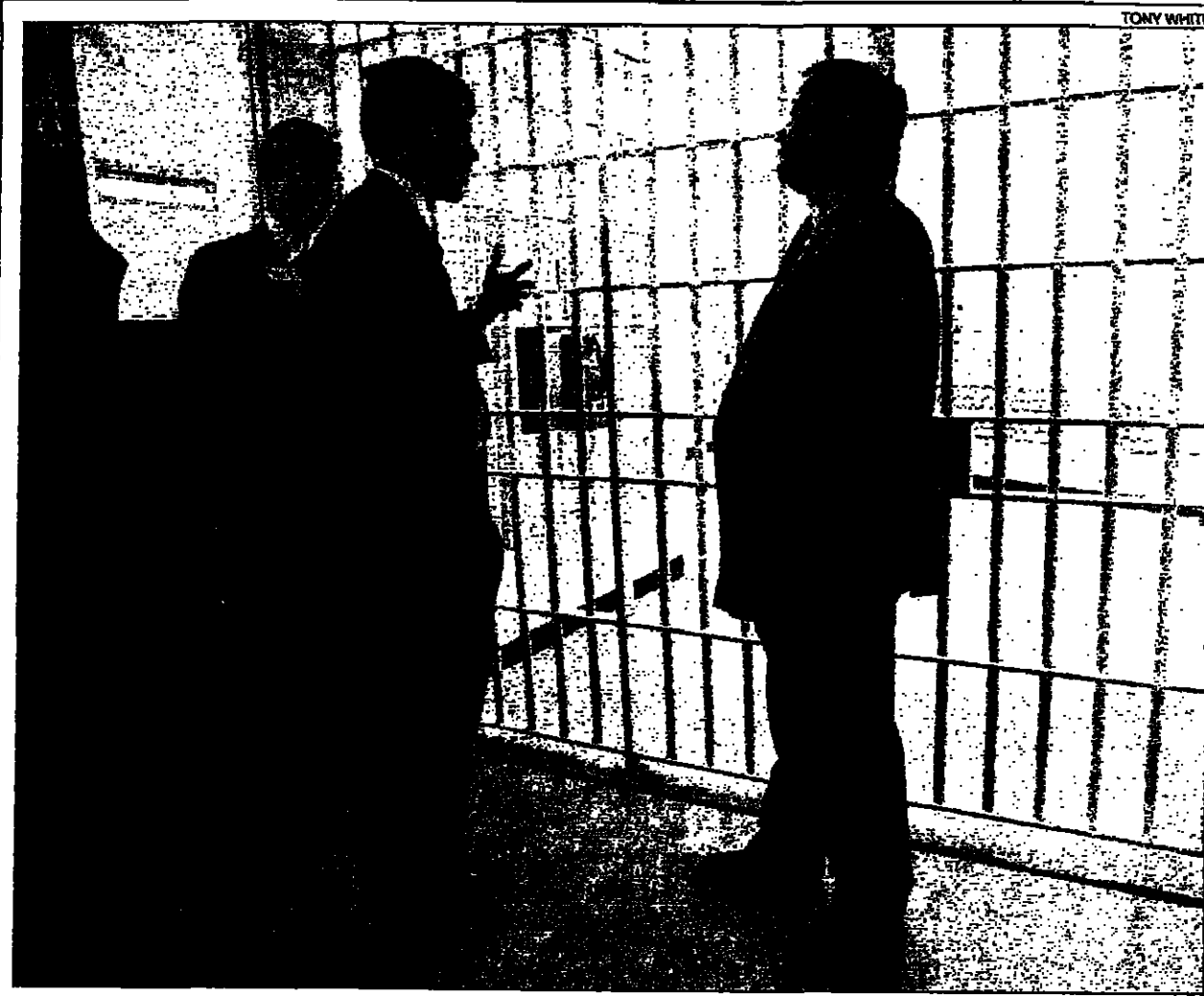
Yesterday, a small group of supporters gathered outside the High Court where Mr Treshman's application for bail was being heard and a second group picketed the health department's headquarters in Whitehall, calling on the government to end its

funding for the federation. There were no demonstrations at abortion clinics.

Linda Toolin, a spokeswoman for the anti-abortionists, said she was dismayed by the failure to obtain Mr Treshman's release. "I feel very upset that he is not here now. This business has given us a lot more work than we expected and changed our plans."

She said that the publicity generated by his arrest had enabled the group to get its views about family planning and abortion across without resorting to picketing. "We are trying to make the public aware of what is happening. Once the public is aware then we will take things from there."

Rescue America and similar organisations have been implicated in violent attacks on abortion clinics in America and there were fears that the arrival of their supporters in Britain could lead to similar scenes.



Just visiting: Kenneth Clarke, the home secretary, right, talks to Brodie Clark, the governor, after opening the £100 million Woodhill prison at Milton Keynes yesterday. The new jail can hold 565 inmates

Advertisers bid for Aids deal

By JILL SHERMAN
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE government is to invite private sector bids for an advertising campaign aimed at preventing people travelling abroad becoming infected with the Aids virus.

The campaign, to start in the next two months, underlines the government's determination to stem the increase in HIV among heterosexuals.

The latest figures for HIV in heterosexuals show that 248 men and 234 women were infected after contact with someone living abroad in 1992, compared with 223 men and 212 women the previous year.

For the past five years, all publicity material on Aids has been managed by the health education authority, a government funded body which reports directly to ministers who are now anxious to try a different approach.

The £250,000 leaflet and poster campaign will be aimed at businessmen, executives living abroad, young backpackers and tourists. It will cover safe sex, advice on avoiding unhygienic treatment and contaminated blood.

Deportation puts democracy in peril

The case of Don Treshman shows all the defects of a deportation power that encourages a political rather than a principled response to social issues, says David Pannick QC



THE decision of Kenneth Clarke, the home secretary, to deport the American anti-abortion campaigner Don Treshman raises the question of whether this power should be exercised against visitors to Britain simply because what they say causes offence and alarm.

Section 5b of the Immigration Act 1971 gives the home secretary a very broad power. Where he "deems deportation to be conducive to the public good", he may order the removal from the United Kingdom of any person who is not a British citizen. The individual normally has a right of appeal to the Immigration Appeal Tribunal. If the appeal is dismissed, a deportation order is made and the deportee is removed. Rather than wait in custody for the appeal to be heard, many people facing deportation choose to leave voluntarily.

In general terms, this deportation power is no doubt necessary to enable the home secretary to remove dangerous visitors such as drug importers and terrorists whose continued presence here causes immediate and substantial public mischief. Unfortunately, the content and the application of the power is much wider.

The courts have stated that the power is not confined to people responsible for major social evils. In 1983, the Court of Appeal held that the home secretary may lawfully use the power to deport on public good grounds even if someone is alleged to have done no more than enter into a marriage of convenience here. The power to detain and deport on grounds of public good is very convenient to the executive, because visitors with an unpopular message can be speedily removed without the authorities having to satisfy magistrates or a jury that a criminal offence has been committed.

The case of Mr Treshman shows all the defects of a

deportation power which encourages a political rather than principled response to social issues. Mr Clarke could and should have explained to his political colleagues that we profess to believe in freedom of expression in this country; that if the words spoken by Mr Treshman constitute a criminal offence of incitement to violence, he will be charged, tried and (if convicted) punished; that if there is evidence that Mr Treshman is plotting to carry out criminal acts here, the criminal law has ample means to deal with him.

Instead, the home secretary had Mr Treshman arrested at the studios of the BBC after he had appeared on *Newsnight*. This is wrong in principle and misguided in practice. As a matter of principle, it is difficult to reconcile the use of the deportation procedure in this case with any concept of fundamental human rights. The removal of Mr Treshman is not going to prevent him — and others — from spreading his views on abortion in this country from abroad. Even the home secretary cannot turn Britain into a zone free from contaminating ideas about direct action against abortion.

As well as reinforcing Britain's growing reputation as a country prepared to restrict free speech whenever it is expedient to do so, the decision will give further publicity to Mr Treshman's bizarre views.

The home secretary is in trouble because his immigration officers allowed Mr Treshman to enter the country. Instead of seeking the surgical operation of deportation to rid himself of an unwanted embarrassment, Mr Clarke should realise that sensible police precautions would be a more effective method of control.

□ The author is a practising Queen's Counsel and a fellow of All Souls College, Oxford.

Ambulance officer sacked in bra row

A SENIOR ambulance officer was sacked after he allegedly twice attempted to undo a colleague's bra and on another occasion pinned her to the floor with his knees. A second woman was so distressed by his behaviour that she asked for a transfer. An industrial tribunal was told yesterday.

Christopher Howdon, 37, a married man with two young children, claims he was unfairly dismissed from his £20,000-a-year job last year after 11 years' service. He had denied claims of sexual harassment, mainly made by Lynn Pyburn, 24, a radio operator under his command at the Newcastle ambulance control room. Ernest Richardson, assistant operations director with Northumbria Ambulance Service, told the hearing in Newcastle upon Tyne that Mrs Pyburn complained after he attempted to undo her bra with one hand in March last year, claiming he had been the best in his school at the manoeuvre. Eleven days later, he allegedly tripped her up and pinned her to the floor, saying: "This will teach you to work your ticket." Later, he again attempted to undo her bra in front of other male colleagues, Mr Richardson said.

In a statement to his superiors, Mr Howdon had strenuously denied tampering with Mrs Pyburn's bra. He insisted the incident where he had pulled her to the floor was "just high spirits on both parts". The hearing continues today.

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LOTS 42-60 All designs and processes pertaining to the drive-train of the Austin Allegro saloon car. (Guide £1,300)

LOT 61 Janowski synthetic balsa wood process. (Guide £200)

LOTS 62-90 Fishing lures, badminton rackets, exercise machines and assorted patents pertaining to various items of sport and leisure equipment. (Guide £70 - £1,200)

LOT 91 Over-the-horizon radar equipment for light aircraft. 2/11D clearance required. (Guide £20,000)

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LOT 149 "Spot the Ball" competition inc. grid design. (Guide £90)

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LOT 153 9 B/W BBC intermissions, inc. "Potter's Wheel" & "Kitten & Wool" etc. (Guide £200)

LOT 154 "NOEL'S HOUSE PARTY" BAFTA award winning light ent. series. (Guide £10,000)

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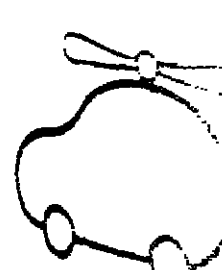
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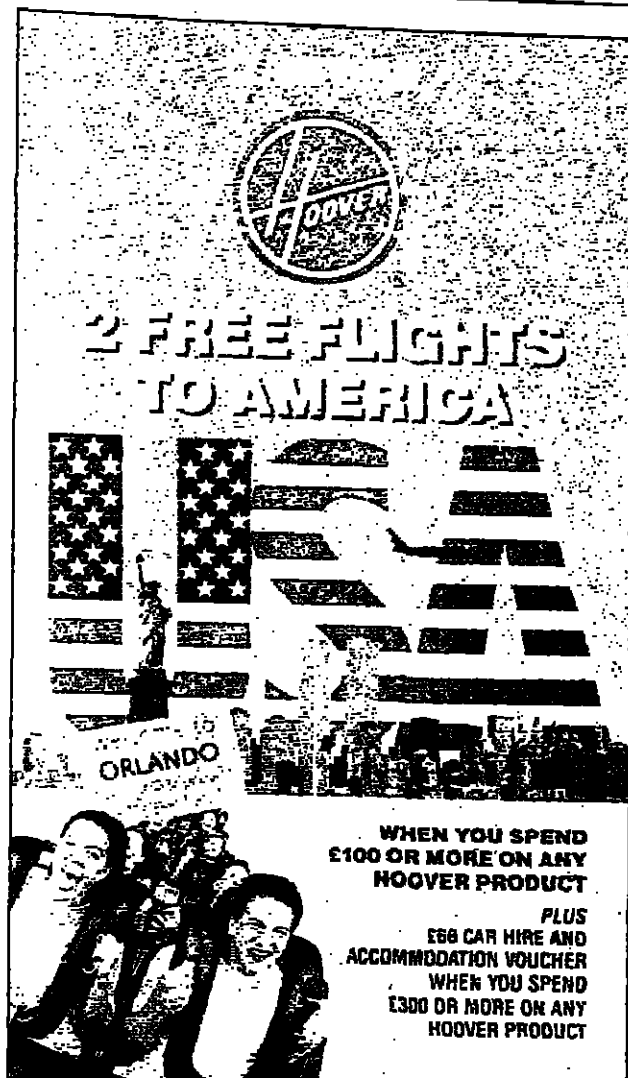
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The new vehicle

Trading officers investigate as company tackles backlog of grounded customers



Sucking them in: the Hoover promotion offer. Hilary Bell, right, was told by travel agents handling the offer to dissuade customers from taking their free flights

Hoover faces threat of legal action

BY BILL FROST

DISGRUNTLED applicants for Hoover's heavily oversubscribed free-flights offer were told yesterday that they might be able to take legal action against the company. As Hoover's new "task force" began to tackle a backlog of up to 30,000 customers who have not received their flights, trading standards said that they were investigating whether the offer breached the Trade Descriptions Act.

Sieve Delahaye, deputy trading standards officer for Mid Glamorgan, where Hoover's UK headquarters is based, said: "Trading standards officers are required to give a strong degree of proof to a court that the offer was deliberately misleading, false or untruthful in some way and we are looking to see if the degree of proof is there." He said there was no evidence yet that the act had been breached but should the required degree of proof

■ As Hoover's new "task force" tries to clean up its £20 million promotional fiasco, fresh evidence has emerged of attempts to thwart potential travellers

emerge, customers could take out a civil action to sue the company.

While Hoover promised that all those who had taken part in the promotion would receive their flights, further details emerged of the tactics used by one of the company's chosen tour operators to thwart would-be travellers. Hilary Bell, a BBC researcher who worked with the firm under an assumed name, said she had been told: "The whole idea is to try to dissuade them from going... because each time they go it costs Hoover money."

Trading standards officers met management at the plant in Merthyr Tydfil yesterday to discover how quickly the new task force of senior staff could deal with the backlog of

people claiming free flights. Up to 200,000 people in Britain and Ireland are estimated to have qualified for two free tickets to the Continent or America by buying Hoover products. Up to 30,000 customers are thought not to have received their flights yet.

The meeting came after William Foust, president of Hoover Europe, and two marketing executives were sacked from their posts on Tuesday. The Maytag Corporation, Hoover's American parent company, admitted that the promotion had caused "tremendous difficulties in administration and implementation".

Mr Delahaye said he was delighted that the company had taken positive action to sort out the

problem. He said that on some days his telephone had rung "every five minutes" with complaints about the offer, launched last August.

Ms Bell said yesterday that she had investigated the offer for BBC1's *Watchdog* programme. She worked for four days in the teleshopping department of Free Flights Europe, Hoover's Watford-based travel agent.

"Quite soon I began to discover that something suspicious was going on," she said. "I played dumb and was told that the basic aim was to dissuade people from taking up the offer by making things as difficult as possible. There appeared to be no shame over what was going on. The attitude seemed to be that the customers were a bit thick for believing that they could get something for nothing."

A secret recording, to be transmitted in next Monday's *Watchdog*, shows Ms Bell being instructed to tell an applicant requesting flights from Glasgow that only services

from Gatwick were available. "I was told that we were only really looking for customers prepared to spend a minimum of £300 on accommodation, insurance and car hire."

Union leaders sought assurances from Hoover management yesterday that the £20 million fiasco would not cost jobs. Fred Sullivan, district secretary of the engineers' union for Mid Glamorgan, said: "What is important now is that Hoover keeps its customers. We cannot afford to lose any more jobs."

Brian Webb, one of the Hoover executives sacked over the promotion, condemned the media yesterday for "advertising a few minor problems". He said: "They called the whole thing a scam, which it isn't. The offer was absolutely genuine and, had we been left alone to sort out the few problems we encountered, everything would have been all right."

Leading article, page 19

Mistakes that led to fiasco

BY HARVEY ELLIOTT
AIR CORRESPONDENT

WHEN Hoover began its "free travel" scheme, it failed to understand two rules of all airline promotions: first, ensure there are adequate safeguards to prevent the offer from becoming swamped, and second, ensure that the airlines will have enough seats to meet demand.

After the Gulf war, everyone was suggesting ways of filling the airlines' empty seats. The carriers led the way with a rash of heavily discounted fares advertised and sold direct. These offers, however, were — and still are — surrounded with a host of provisos, for example a compulsory Saturday night stay and off-peak travel.

Newspaper promotions offer "free" flights, or one free with every one bought at full price. Only when the conditions are studied does the customer find that he cannot fly during school holidays, that the tickets are available only on certain routes at certain times and that he must stay at his destination for a given length of time. If more than 10 per cent of the initial interest shown in the offer is translated into bookings, both the airline and the promoter could be embarrassed.

Hoover said last night that its offer was intended to apply only to charter flights. But charter airlines are usually full because they provide seats to tour operators who block-book and pay for them in advance.

A spokesman for Hoover said: "We said we would use scheduled airlines where necessary. There was no time limit except that flights had to have been taken by the end of 1994. We did not deal directly with the airlines but we were working with seat suppliers who were in touch with them."

Those same wholesalers will now have to buy discounted seats on the open market to satisfy the demand. And the airlines are likely to negotiate hard to ensure that they obtain the best price they can while Hoover is in such disarray.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Police held pit bull unlawfully

An American pit bull terrier held by police for six months was released to its owner after the High Court ruled that it had been wrongfully detained under the Dangerous Dogs Act. Joker, a two-year-old owned by Alex Wheeler, 27, of Feltham, west London, was taken into custody, pending destruction, because it had no identification tattoo.

In September 1991, Mr Wheeler had obtained a certificate of exemption from destruction after having Joker neutered, fitted with an electronic transponder and insured for third party liability. Lord Justice Evans, sitting with Mr Justice Morland, ruled that, when the certificate was issued, there was no legal requirement for the dog to be tattooed.

George Keppe, Mr Wheeler's solicitor, said the ruling meant that hundreds of dogs in similar circumstances may have been unlawfully destroyed. He intended to seek damages for Mr Wheeler.

Semi shrine

The National Trust opens its first suburban semi to the public today. The house in Worsop, Nottinghamshire, has been unaltered since Edwardian times. It has never been fitted with a telephone or washing machine.

Price surge

The cost of electricity for industry in Northern Ireland is to increase today by up to 9 per cent. Domestic consumers will face rises of 2.3 per cent and 6 per cent on the off-peak Economy 7.

Job spin-off

More than 100 jobs have been created in the Portsmouth area by jobcentres taking on extra staff to cope with the rise in local unemployment.

Stage left

The Cambridge Theatre Company is leaving the city for London after 24 years, following a cut in its council grant from £42,000 to £5,000.

Return flight

Three racing pigeons stolen from Bill Holland, of King's Lynn, Norfolk, have flown back to him.

Stargazer's guide to night sky in April

BY MICHAEL J HENDRIE
ASTRONOMY CORRESPONDENT

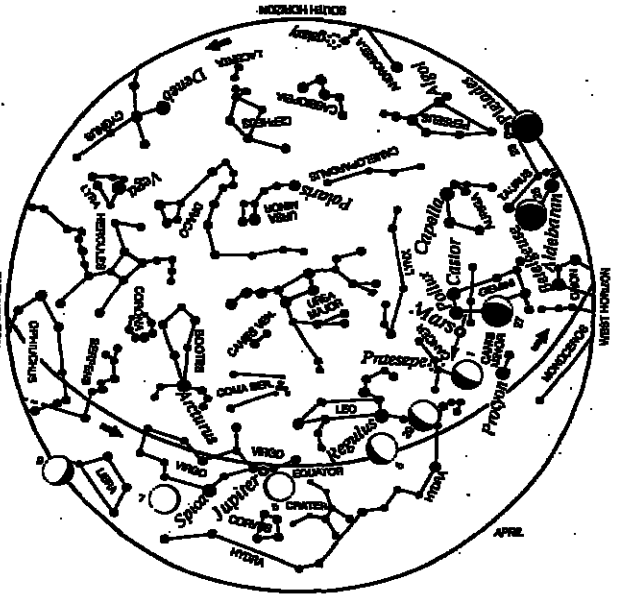
MERCURY is a morning star throughout the month but is to the south of the Sun, remaining too close to the horizon to be visible. It reaches greatest western elongation (28 deg) on the 5th.

Venus is at inferior conjunction on the 1st when it passes between the Earth and the Sun. The -4.5 magnitude planet may just be visible near the eastern horizon late in the month but it will remain in morning twilight until July. The waning crescent Moon is near by on the 19th.

Mars moves from Gemini into Cancer during April fading from 0.5 to 1.0 magnitude by the 30th. Mars will be five degrees south of the bright star Pollux on the 14th. Moon near by on the 28th.

Jupiter is a bright -2.4 magnitude evening star in Virgo. The Moon is near by on the 5th/6th. Saturn has moved eastwards into Aquarius, the 1.0 magnitude planet rising by 02h 30m by the end of the month. The waning crescent Moon is to the north on the 16th/17th.

Uranus and Neptune rise at 01h by the 30th, the 5.6 magnitude Uranus reaching a stationary point on the 26th



□ The diagram shows the brighter stars that will be above the horizon in the latitude of London at 23h (11 pm) at the beginning, 22h (10 pm) in the middle, and 21h (9 pm) at the end of the month, local mean time. At places away from the Greenwich meridian, the Greenwich times at which the diagram applies are later than the above by one hour for each 15 deg west of Greenwich and earlier by a like amount if the place be east. The map should be turned so that the horizon the observer is facing (shown by the words around the circle) is at the bottom, the zenith being at the centre.

Greenwich Mean Time, known to astronomers as Universal Time and expressed in 24-hour notation, is used in the accompanying notes unless otherwise stated.

while 8.0 magnitude Neptune is stationary on the 22nd. In Sagittarius, the two planets make three close approaches during the year, as Uranus overtakes the more distant Neptune. Last quarter Moon near by on the 13th.

The Moon: full Moon, 6d 19h; last quarter, 13d 20h; new Moon, 22d 00h; first quarter, 29d 13h.

Sunset on the 1st is at 18h 35m and on the 30th at 19h 25m while sunrise is at 05h

35m and 04h 30m on the same dates. Astronomical twilight ends at 20h 30m and 21h 55m early and late in the month and begins again at 03h 40m and 02h 00m.

The April meteor shower, the Lyrids, reaches maximum activity after midnight on the 22nd. The meteors appear to radiate from an area between the A of Lyra and the H of Hercules on the April chart. While not normally a strong shower, with about 10 meteors per hour, greater activity occurs in some years and as the Moon will be new this year observing conditions are ideal.

The outer planets are very large and have deep atmospheres, with low overall densities and are therefore quite different in character from the Earthlike inner planets. Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus and Neptune have all been visited by the Voyager spacecraft and we have detailed pictures of them. Jupiter is the largest, 142,000km (88,000 miles) across the equatorial diameter or over ten times that of the Earth. It weighs as much as 318 Earths and has a thousand times the Earth's volume. Saturn is slightly smaller at 120,000km. Uranus and Neptune are about 50,000km in diameter. Pluto is only 2,300km in diameter and smaller than our Moon. It has a frozen, solid surface and a single satellite, Charon, about half its size.

The four large outer planets are well endowed with satellites. Jupiter has 16 known moons, Saturn 17, Uranus 15

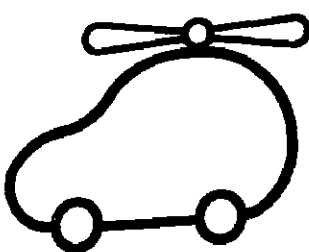
and Neptune eight though it is likely that other small satellites remain to be discovered.

Of the larger satellites, Neptune's Triton is 2,700km across and Saturn's Titan 5,100km while Jupiter has four moons over 3,100 km, roughly the size of our Moon (3,500km) with Ganymede, at 5,300km, the largest satellite in the solar system.

The four bright satellites of Jupiter were discovered in 1609 by Simon Marius and Galileo Galilei, the first two telescopic observers of the night sky. Jupiter is now well-placed for observation in the evening sky, being just south of the equator. This provides a good opportunity to look for the four "Galilean" satellites which should be visible with binoculars. We see the orbits of these satellites edge on, so that they appear to move backwards and forwards, appearing first on the right and then on the left of Jupiter. As they take differing numbers of days to revolve round the planet the pattern they present changes from night to night.

The four great moons are from 4.6 to 5.6 magnitude and in theory should be visible to the naked eye when Jupiter is near opposition as it is this month.

□ The Times month-by-month guide to the night sky in 1993 is available from bookshops at £2.99, or by post from HarperCollins Publications, Distribution Centre, PO Box, Glasgow G4 0NB. Please enclose £1.60 for post and packing.



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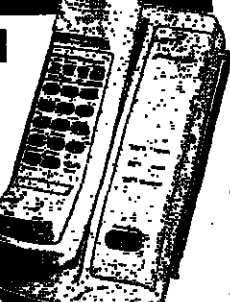
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Tory figures fuel row over council tax levels

By Rachel Kelly and Philip Webster

THE government has published a full list of council tax bills across England and Wales, provoking a fresh row between Labour and the Conservatives about which party sets lower charges.

Launching the party's local government election campaign yesterday, Michael Howard, the environment secretary, claimed there was widespread acceptance of the council tax and said that Tory councils would on average charge £107 less than Labour authorities. He said that the average council tax per household would be £456 compared with £486 under the community charge, and that overall six out of ten households would be better off under the new system.

Sir Norman Fowler, the Conservative party chairman, told a news conference: "Our campaign will be based around the clear proposition that Conservative councils cost you less."

Sir Norman poured scorn on the claims of Jack Straw, the shadow environment secretary, launching Labour's local government election campaign the day before, that Labour councils charge on average £14 less than Tory authorities. Sir Norman said that Tory councils always cost people less than any other kind of council. A Tory council would cost a Band C household £107 — £2 a week — less than a Labour council in the coming year.

The discrepancy in the claims is because the parties have chosen different sets of figures to make their points. While the Conservative figure is based on rates for Band C properties, Labour's figures are averages rather than actual bills and show the total amount billed by an authority divided by the total number of properties in that authority. As Labour areas tend to contain more expensive properties in the lower bands, the average bills are lower.

Mr Howard said that bills were being contained because the government had increased grant to local authorities by 3.7 per cent (£1,200 million), because it had indicated that it was prepared to use a tough capping regime, and because Conservative councils had gone to considerable lengths to control their charges.

Pointing to Labour's "somersault" in accepting the council tax, Mr Howard said he hoped the continual argument about methods of local government finance could be left behind.

Tony Travers, a local government expert from the London School of Economics said: "This is a classic example of politicians choosing the statistics that suit them."

In a document entitled *The facts about Labour's council tax*, the Tories claimed that average council taxes would be: Band A — Conservative £342, Labour £422 (extra cost of Labour £80); Band B — Conservative £399, Labour £493 (£94); Band C — Conservative £456, Labour £563 (£107); Band D — Conservative £513, Labour £633 (£120); Band E — Conservative £574, Labour £697 (£123); Band F — Conservative £641, Labour £767 (£126); Band G — Conservative £710, Labour £835 (£125); Band H — Conservative £781, Labour £906 (£125); Band I — Conservative £856, Labour £981 (£125).

Sir Norman acknowledged that the elections, for 3,500 seats in 47 English and Welsh counties on May 6, would be about national politics as well as the performance of local authorities.

In the 1989 county council elections, the Conservatives gained 98 seats net and overall control of Cambridgeshire, Devon, East Sussex, Essex, Hampshire, Hertfordshire, Somerset, Warwickshire. Early returns on nominations indicated that there would be a record number of Conservatives standing in the county elections, more than 3,150 compared to 3,019 in 1989, party officials said.

Diary, page 18

Outsider Ashdown brings anti-politics to Westminster

Paddy Ashdown does not talk like other politicians. Despite nearly ten years in the Commons, he still sees politics with an outsider's eye, which is partly why his style irritates many fellow MPs. For the past two months he has been renewing himself by spending two days a week away from Westminster in an attempt to gauge the mood of the country.

His "listening and learning tour" — to be completed with four more visits in June and July — has not, he insisted, been "a comprehensive anatomy of Britain. It has been a bit like Cobden's *Rural Rides* (in the 19th century), looking at those areas where there are problems. It has not been one long whinge about the state of Britain and has been as much about discussing solutions which Westminster does not know about as discussing problems Westminster does not know about."

No journalists went on these visits, although Mr Ashdown was accompanied by a photographer for a book he is considering writing this summer. The book would be aimed at what he describes as "a puzzled, concerned citizen of Britain wondering about state of country". He would write it, he said, as an engaged observer, like a modern-day documentary.

Mr Ashdown talks with typical enthusiasm about his visits, some of which have reflected his own physical fitness and stamina. They have ranged from a shift at the pit face at Monkton Hall colliery in Scotland, via a couple of stormy days on a trawler in the Western Approaches and two "frightening" nights in the crime-ridden streets of Manchester's Moss Side to a gay and lesbian centre in Oxford studying Aids.

It is time at the coal face compared with his own experience in the Royal Marines and the Special Boat Squadron, both requiring teamwork and the application of technology, in circumstances which any rational person would doubt whether they could survive. From these visits, he detects "a growing sense of the irrelevance of institutions to ordinary people's lives and to the solution of problems. The nation is bewildered."



There is a sense of failed institutions.

Mr Ashdown was surprised that people were angry not just with the government but with the failure of politics and politicians generally. It was "a plague on all your houses. You are as much to blame as ministers", he was told. People were depressed after they allowed themselves to have hope in the 1980s and had their hopes dashed.

He found a greater capacity for renewal in the inner cities of Manchester and Liverpool which had experienced problems for longer than in the South East and had "already won through the cycle of depression". In some cases, inner-city housing schemes have been revitalised thanks to the intervention of Conservative ministers overriding local, mainly Labour, politicians.

Mr Ashdown draws two broad conclusions: first, that Westminster is one of the problems, but not one of the solutions; and second, that we cannot solve problems without unleashing the power of the community, sometimes against the prevailing will of politicians.

His view — in which there are conscious echoes of Ross Perot, the American anti-politics campaigner in the last presidential election — is contrary to at least 40 years of centralisation. Westminster has to decide what not to do, like subsidiarity within the European Community. It has to relinquish means of control, even where the proposals are not welcome to Westminster politicians.

The problem is not all with national government, he argues. It lies with the habits of politicians — all politicians who want everything under their control. Politicians have got to be prepared to allow people to do things for themselves, and to get things wrong.



High-wire act: Mr Ashdown, seeking to be always on the winning side

From the other side, Mr Ashdown believes that people do not feel they can influence Westminster. "The general election has not made much difference, in a sense the general election never happened and did not change anything. That leads Mr Ashdown

into ideas which worry some of his more conventional colleagues. "One of conclusions one might reach is that the Victorian/19th century model of parliamentary democracy is reaching the end of its utility. We have to think about how to renew and refresh the theory of parliamentary democracy."

The Liberal Democrat-controlled Tower Hamlets and Richmond councils in London have both held con-

sultative referendums, offering a choice between various levels of poll tax and services. This in one case produced a higher level of poll tax than would otherwise have been agreed.

Mr Ashdown emphasises that he is not advocating a system of direct democracy like that in Switzerland. When I suggested that the regular and widespread use of such referendums or propositions in American states such as California had reinforced the status quo, he acknowledged that it might mean politicians not moving faster and further than the public wanted to go.

Characteristically, Mr Ashdown urges a change in the culture of politicians to be more like commercial organisations. Successful firms in Japan and Germany are all moving to participatory structures of management. He sees the government's citizen's charter as moving in that sort of direction.

A part from his proposed book, Mr Ashdown intends to feed his ideas back into the party via its policy committee. He believes the Liberal Democrats need to respond to the new public mood. That means adopting "a different voice from a Westminster voice. The public wants to hear the truth, not Westminster clichés."

This above-party tone, which so irritates Labour MPs, is likely to be heard during the Newbury by-election campaign.

Mr Ashdown argues that all parties are minorities now at Westminster. Therefore, the emphasis should be on co-operation. He gives the example of his party's "high-wire act" over the Maastricht treaty bill, where the Liberal Democrats have sometimes sided with the government and sometimes with Labour, but have always been on the winning side. This, he suggests, shows how the party would operate in a hung Parliament, not belonging to one side or another.

His version of a more pluralistic politics might in time lead to co-operation between the parties about which party fights which seats. But he does not, he emphasises, want to replace the Tory-Labour duopoly with a new Labour-Liberal Democrat duopoly. It is "pluralism I am after."

Shepherd to launch trial of 'workfare' programme

By Philip Bassett and Jill Sherman

THE government will today launch the first trial in Britain of an unemployment scheme allied to American-style workfare. In the American system the unemployed do community work or lose their benefit.

Though the pilot scheme, to be announced today by Gillian Shephard, the employment secretary, is in some key aspects markedly different from workfare programmes in the United States, Labour leaders will sharply attack the government's move.

John Major caused a political stir earlier this year when he advocated a greater degree of compulsion in unemployment schemes.

The trial programme, to be called North Norfolk Action, will offer temporary work to 100 people who have been unemployed for more than six months, paying them their current benefits plus £10 a week.

Three local organisations will provide places on the pilot scheme, which will cost £750,000 in a full year, carrying out a range of community-style work for about 30 hours a week, including creating safe

playgrounds, church renovation and footpath creation. Unemployed people are likely to be on the scheme by the end of April.

Unemployed people who reject a place on the scheme will be questioned each week about their progress in looking for work — a big extension of current job-search scrutiny. The new Jobplan workshops, launched earlier this week, will question people after a year of being unemployed, while Restart questions them after two years. The employment department calls the weekly interviews "concentrated help" for the long-term unemployed.

Mrs Shephard said yesterday that the trial scheme was another means of helping the unemployed, but Labour attacked it as "appalling". Frank Dobson, the shadow employment secretary, rejected workfare for Britain and attacked the extra pressure which the Norfolk pilot would place on those out of work: "It may not be compulsory in theory, but the unemployed involved will understand that, if they don't go on it, the officials will turn up the burn-

er under them," Mr Dobson said.

Employment ministers are also drawing up a scheme to encourage unemployed managers to set up "cooperatives" with other jobless people. The proposal would build on the community action scheme announced in the Budget which allows the long-term unemployed to do voluntary work in return for a £10 supplement on their benefit.

Under the new scheme, unemployed people with managerial skills would be able to set up their own businesses for specific ventures such as tidying up a council estate or putting loft insulation into a number of homes. They would be encouraged to take on unemployed manual workers who would be given the same bonus as those on community action schemes.

Officials are still working on the details of incentives for the managers and whether the projects would need to be controlled by a separate agency.

Employment ministers are particularly keen to encourage people to work for their own communities.

Maastricht campaign woos peers

By Jonathan Prynn

CAMPAIGNERS for a referendum on the Maastricht treaty are homing in on the hundreds of "backwoodsmen" peers who make up the natural Tory majority in the Lords.

Peers in favour of a referendum, led by Lord Blake, the Conservative historian, are turning their attention to the Lords as the Maastricht bill nears the end of its Commons stage. By tapping into the ranks of hereditary peers sometimes wheeled out by the government for tight votes, the anti-Maastricht campaigners hope to outnumber pro-European Tory and Liberal Democrat peers and secure an amendment to the bill requiring a national poll.

Organisers of a petition for a referendum yesterday remained cautious about the size of the response to this week's advertising campaign, which involved the publication of petition forms in national newspapers. They confirmed that Sir James Goldsmith is one of the principal financial backers of the campaign and that several other "national figures" have also made donations.

Treaty pace stepped up

By Nicholas Wood and Philip Webster

THE government is planning an immediate return to the Maastricht bill after Easter, ensuring that the critical debates on the referendum and the social provisions of the treaty take place before the end of April.

As the Tory rebels decided to keep their intentions about the "timebomb" amendment 75 on the social chapter close to their chests over Easter in the hope of avoiding constituency pressure, ministers indicated that after their procedural successes of the past two weeks they believe that the committee stage can be wrapped up in three more days.

Some pro-Europeans are even pressing for the government to complete the report stage of the committee and the third reading of the bill before the Danish referendum on May 18. However, the whips

seem certain to reject such a provocative timetable. It would require John Major to renege on private assurances given to dissident Tories.

Ministers have been encouraged by a gradual slippage in the Euro-sceptic vote. Three senior backbenchers, who have previously abstained in procedural votes, all backed the government on Tuesday night and helped to deliver its five-vote majority. The reluctant converts to the government's cause say they believe that the time has come to get the Maastricht bill out of the way and allow Mr Major to concentrate on more pressing matters.

While the referendum vote is expected to go with the government in the Commons, amendment 75 remains the rebels' best hope of supplanting the treaty.

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US reverses policy to brand Iran as international outlaw

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

FOURTEEN years after revolutionaries overthrew the Shah of Iran, a fourth president has assumed office in Washington apparently determined that he, unlike his three predecessors, will not be gravely undermined by the clerics of Tehran.

Jimmy Carter might have won re-election had it not been for the Tehran hostage crisis and his disastrous attempt at rescue. Ronald Reagan was sucked into the Iran-Contra scandal by the delusion that he could deal with Tehran to secure the release of other US hostages. Mr Reagan and George Bush both believed they could play Iraq and Iran against each other. The result was a Gulf war in which Western nations fought Iraqi forces that they had helped to arm, an issue that exploded during the presidential campaign last year.

Iran, William Quandt, a Middle East expert who served on Mr Carter's national security council, says is "a tarbaby that this administration will not embrace". There would be no more cynical attempts to use Iran and Iraq as regional counterweights. Washington's new policy was one of "double containment".

In congressional evidence

this week, Warren Christopher, the Secretary of State, denied angrily that the administration's abandonment of insistence on President Saddam Hussein's removal as a condition of lifting United Nations sanctions represented a weakening of American resolve. "We have not relented, we have not softened our position with respect to Saddam Hussein," he said. "I want to say that as forcefully as I can."

At the same time, he branded Iran an "international outlaw", signalling a clean break with the Bush administration's relatively conciliatory attitude towards Tehran. Iran was "one of the principal sources of support for terrorist groups around the world," Mr Christopher said.

It was a "dangerous country" bent on acquiring weapons of mass destruction. America would lobby its allies vigorously to block further World Bank loans for Iranian civilian projects that could free resources for its military build-up. Middle East experts say the Clinton administration, not blinkered by Mr Bush's obsession with Saddam, has reassessed the region's problems and concluded that, while Iraq presented little cause for concern in the fore-

seeable future, Iran was quickly becoming a big threat.

Yitzhak Rabin, Israel's prime minister, forcefully underlined that view in his White House meeting with Mr Clinton last month. Implored the president to continue the "Star Wars" programme to give Israel the ultimate defence against Iranian missiles.

American intelligence estimates that Iran is five to ten years away from becoming a nuclear power and has produced up to 2,000 tons of chemical weapons. It is a main backer of Hezbollah, the Lebanon-based extremist group, and of Hamas, the violent Palestinian group.

There is copious evidence of a new Iranian assertiveness, but Dr Quandt argues that the administration was also engaging in a "certain amount of willing exaggeration". In denouncing Iran it was hoping to advance the Middle East peace process. It might also be seeking to bolster allies whose determination to contain Iran appears to be weakening. As Mr Christopher was denouncing Iran on Tuesday, the World Bank was approving a \$160 million (£107 million) loan to Iran for an electrical plant. Among 24 board members America was the lone opponent.



Law and order: an armed Israeli policeman lines up a group of West Bank Palestinians for an identity check outside Jerusalem yesterday

Israel relaxes shooting rules

FROM BEN LYNFIELD IN JERUSALEM

AMID an Israeli security crackdown against an increase in Palestinian attacks, the army said here yesterday that there had been a relaxation in the rules governing the circumstances in which troops are allowed to fire at armed Palestinians in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Yitzhak Rabin, the prime minister, has said that the crackdown, including the mil-

itary closure of the occupied territories, is aimed at reducing Arab violence before the planned resumption of Arab-Israeli peace talks on April 20. But Palestinians predict that the steps will serve only to fuel further bloodshed and will complicate efforts to resume the negotiations.

Mr Rabin has ordered that the 1.8 million Palestinians from the West Bank and Gaza Strip, including the 130,000 who work in cities, should be denied entry to Israel for an undetermined period.

In its statement yesterday, the Israeli army said: "The guidelines for opening fire have indeed been adjusted to new realities and to the immediate danger stemming from those carrying weapons."

Security officials said that the change would shorten the existing procedure by which soldiers are ordered to use warning shots before firing directly at armed Palestinians. However, Palestinian leaders say that they fear the change will also take its toll of unarmed Arabs.

British nuclear sub enters the Gulf

FROM MICHAEL EVANS ON BOARD HMS TRIUMPH

THIS Royal Navy nuclear-powered submarine has entered the Gulf for the first time, illustrating a significant change in British foreign and military policy.

The arrival of the Trafalgar-class HMS *Triumph* in the Gulf gives a symbolic warning to Iran and other potentially aggressive countries in the region that British military power can operate far from home. No Royal Navy submarine has visited the Gulf since 1966, but that visit was by a diesel-powered boat. It was also at a time when British submarines were operating worldwide as part of a much bigger navy.

With the main threat from the former Soviet Union now over, the government plans to send nuclear submarines from their traditional North Atlantic waters to areas where the threats of the new "changed world" are perceived to be predominant.

Iran has recently bought a Kilo-class diesel-powered submarine from Russia and two more are being built for the Iranians at one of the principal Baltic naval dockyards. The potential threat they pose to shipping in the Gulf is seen as more long term. But the presence of the *Triumph* and the USS *Birmingham* in the waterway this week has emphasised the determination of London and Washington to counter any threatened disruption to the vital shipping lane.

Commander David Vaughan, the *Triumph's* captain, said the boat's pioneering visit was "all part of the new policy of developing rapid deployment and quick-reaction forces".

Captain Martin Macpherson, representing Vice-Admiral Toby Frere, Flag Officer Submarines, putting the potential threat from Iranian submarines into perspective, said it would take Tehran three or four years to develop the ability to mount "a one-off kamikaze" attack in the Gulf. "But to carry out effective submarine warfare over a long time and be able to sustain losses, that will take ten, 15 or 20 years," he added.

The reason was training and experience. The Russian "mercenaries" who are instructing the Iranians have limited experience of operating in these waters and the Kilo class lacks the quality of sonar and navigational equipment to be found in the *Triumph*.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Mubarak reassures tourists

London: President Mubarak of Egypt has insisted that his country is no more torn by terrorism than any other and that it is safe for tourists (Eve Ann Prentice writes). Western concern has been growing over an Islamic extremist campaign of violence against foreigners visiting Egypt.

What is going on in Egypt now happens all over the world," Mr Mubarak said after meeting Helmut Kohl, the German chancellor, in Bonn. "You have no cause to worry. The country is stable... you can come to Egypt without worry, and you can move about freely."

He was speaking before continuing his journey to Britain for a three-day visit. In London, he met Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, for talks on the Middle East peace process, the situation in Iraq and ties with Libya. He will meet John Major today.

Right to die

Winnipeg: A majority of Canadians would support a law legalising euthanasia, assisted by a doctor for people suffering from terminal illness. A *Southern News* poll here said 70 per cent of 1,500 respondents would back it. (AFP)

Care pulls out

Nairobi: The Care aid agency is to halt its relief operations in Baidara, southern Somalia, because famine had been brought under control but operating costs were still excessive. UN agencies will continue their work. (AFP)

Mutiny ends

Abidjan: Mutinous troops in Ivory Coast have ended their three-night occupation of the presidential palace here after President Houphouët-Boigny agreed to look into their complaints over pay and working conditions. (Reuters)

Murder trial

Sydney: The trial for murder began of two Australian gunmen who boasted they killed five people, shooting two miners in the face and throwing them alive over a cliff. A third suspect shot himself dead after a 27-hour siege at a farmhouse. (Reuters)

Mayors protest

Guatemala City: About 200 mayors have barricaded themselves in the capital's cathedral for a third day to demand \$11.3 million (£7.6 million) in municipal funds owed to them by the government. (AFP)

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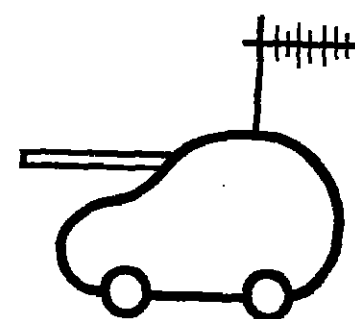
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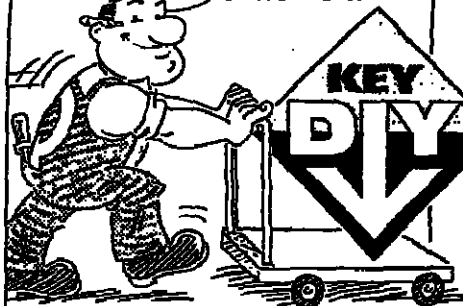
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North Korea regime defies nuclear inspection deadline

By EVE-ANN PRENTICE, DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

ALARM over the scope of North Korea's suspected nuclear arms programme heightened yesterday as the Stalinist regime defied a deadline to allow international inspection of two sites.

David Kyd, of the International Atomic Energy Agency, which wants to inspect the suspected sites at Yongbyon, north of Pyongyang, said: "We have exhausted all options. They have categorically ruled out the inspections and made it clear this is not a matter for discussion."

Yesterday's deadline for the inspection of the sites was imposed by the energy agency at the end of February. Two weeks later, North Korea announced it was withdrawing from the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, releasing it from inspections. The decision, which becomes effective in three months, will make North Korea the first country to withdraw from the 154-member treaty, drawn up in 1968 to check the spread of nuclear weapons technology.

Governors of the energy agency were holding an emergency meeting in Vienna as the deadline passed, and the issue will now almost certainly be referred to the United Nations Security Council. The UN faces problems over what it can do next: America wants to impose sanctions, but China opposes this action. Li Peng, the prime minister, said in Peking: "I am afraid that it [the security council] may not help to find a solution to this problem."

Last week, Warren Christopher, the US Secretary of State, called for security council action against Pyongyang, saying that some sanctions could persuade North Korea despite its isolation. Kiichi Miyazawa, the Japanese prime minister, indicated yesterday that his country might agree to refer the issue to the security council.

But North Korea rebuffed such threats through its controlled media. An editorial in the *Rodong Sinmun* newspaper said that sanctions would fail, and that North Korea would take "counter-measures" against America and its allies, without suggesting what these might be.

A British government spokesman said yesterday: "There is going to have to be some footwork in the UN before we get unanimity on the subject. I don't think we expect a North Korean change of heart." A UN resolution is likely to be passed next week which criticises Pyongyang, but which also leaves the door open for more discussions.

A North Korean envoy in Vienna left no doubt yesterday

that Pyongyang would remain defiant. Yun Ho Jin, a senior diplomat at the North Korean mission in the Austrian capital, said his government's position had not changed. "North Korea is always ready to consult and discuss the implementation of the [nuclear] safeguards agreement, except at the two sites at Yongbyon," he said.

The energy agency's patience with North Korea seemed near breaking point. "We will continue to talk to North Korea, but at this stage they have neither offered inspection of the two sites, nor indicated any softening of its stance," Mr Kyd said.

Western analysts disagree in their assessments of North Korea's suspected nuclear capability. Mr Kyd is sceptical about a claim that it has the capability to blow itself up but could not launch a strike against its neighbours. Paul Beaver, of *Jane's Defence Weekly*, said: "We have a clear indication that [Pyongyang] has between four and six laboratory nuclear devices, but they still lack the means of

delivery." Mr Kyd said: "They have Scud missiles and this is good technology which they have improved."

Mr Beaver, visiting Tokyo at the invitation of the foreign ministry for talks with Japanese military and diplomatic chiefs, told Reuters that Pyongyang was probably about three years away from acquiring the means of delivery. "North Korea cannot yet fit a nuclear device on to a ballistic missile and send it," he said. "But we are convinced that they have a programme that aims to put nuclear warheads on to a missile called Rodong-3, which would have a 940-mile range. That missile could be in service by 1996 or early 1997, about the same time that its nuclear programme is likely to come to fruition." South Korea and most of Japan, including Tokyo, would be within range.

North Korea has already developed a 375-mile range missile, Rodong-1, carrying a 1,100lb warhead, he said. American intelligence reports indicated it had been exported to Iran, Mr Beaver added.

Landslide win for Patterson

By DAVID ADAMS

THE People's National Party, led by Percival "P. J." Patterson, the prime minister, has achieved the biggest landslide in Jamaican electoral history. In the general elections, held on Tuesday, the People's party won at least 50 of the 60 seats, with Labour picking up only five.

Mr Patterson first became prime minister a year ago, inheriting a 46-14 majority, when Michael Manley resigned for health reasons.

The result was marred by the lowest turnout, 70 per cent, in the country's seven elections since independence from Britain in 1962, and by violence on election day in one person died and many were injured.

Edward Seaga, the Labour leader, won his seat comfortably, but his party's losses mean that he will probably be replaced before the next election. Another casualty of the election was Hugh Shearer, a former Labour prime minister, who was expected to lose his seat.



Upper hand: Percival Patterson celebrating his poll victory in Kingston



Beaver: North building missile for warheads

Peking to set up 1997 committee

FROM CATHERINE SAMPSON IN PEKING

CHINA'S parliament approved yesterday the setting-up of a takeover committee for Hong Kong, three years earlier than planned, in protest at Chris Patten's decision to push ahead with democratic reforms in the colony.

Hong Kong politicians fear the committee will become a shadow government, trying to undermine the colonial administration. Martin Lee, leader of the liberal United Democrats, said: "They say they are not going to be a power centre. But they have said so many things before that they did not mean."

Allen Lee, the convener of the co-operative resources centre, the conservative and usually pro-Peking political group, was more outspoken. Describing the resolution as a "dangerous and undesirable move", he declared: "I do not believe that it will be just a preparatory committee."

Talks between China and London have broken down over Peking's insistence that no Hong Kong officials should be represented. Mr Lee, pleading for more talks between the two countries to sort out the impasse, said that if there were no talks between the two sides now that the people's congress was over, he would blame both governments "for playing the Hong Kong chip, while Hong Kong people suffer".

In Peking, Li Peng, the

prime minister, told a rare press conference, held to mark the end of the parliamentary session: "We should establish a preparatory committee in 1996, but time is pressing and there is a lot of work to be done. The purpose of that preparatory body is to ensure a smooth transition and to ensure the long-term stability of Hong Kong."

The Sino-British joint liaison group already has the responsibility of preparing for the Chinese takeover with input from both sides. Its work, however, has ground to a halt with the dispute between Peking and Mr Patten, and China apparently is preparing to work alone.

Peking has still not indicated when the takeover committee will be formed, who will sit on it, or what its functions will be. The announcement may be little more than bluff to put more pressure on Mr Patten. However, it might have a more specific purpose - to shape the way the legislature will look after 1997 and to demand to be consulted on investment.

The Clinton administration yesterday threw its weight behind British efforts to introduce greater democracy to Hong Kong. "I support the reforms the governor has put forward and hope they can survive 1997," Warren Christopher, the Secretary of State, told a Senate subcommittee.

Clinton may help Cheers call time

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN NEW YORK

President Clinton may make a guest appearance in the final episode of *Cheers*, the popular American television sitcom set in a Boston bar. The series is to end next month after more than a decade on the air, according to media reports.

"There is interest from both the producers and from President Clinton to have him participate in the *Cheers* finale," an official said for NBC, the television network that produces the show. White House sources were quoted as saying that the president was keen to play a cameo role in the last programme. The sources indicated, however, that a decision would depend on Mr Clinton's schedule and the health of Hugh Rodham, his father-in-law, who is critically ill.

Over the past ten years the series has steadily increased in popularity. It is now the longest-running comedy on television but, despite continued high ratings, NBC decided last year that it had reached the end of its life.

To mark the end of the series, NBC announced a 90-

minute special to be broadcast in America on May 20. Filming was starting in Hollywood yesterday and will end next week.

Cheers has a tradition of inviting politicians to appear in the series and the list of those who have wandered into the Boston bar in search of refreshment includes Tip O'Neill, the former House Speaker, and Gary Hart, the one-time presidential hopeful.

Although it is filmed at the Paramount studios in California, *Cheers*, with its bawdy Irish bar humour, is Bostonian to the core and residents of the city have already begun to mourn the end of the series by sporting "Cheers for Cheers" T-shirts.

The cast of *Cheers* has remained virtually unchanged since its first episode in September 1982. What began as a most unlikely, even banal, sitcom has gradually developed into one of America's primary television institutions. Today, virtually every town in America boasts a bar called "Cheers": in Boston there are six.

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Knives come out with a flourish at the court of roi François



Napoleon: master of legendary farewell

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN PARIS

A LONELY, unloved monarch stalks his deserted palace, biding his time for the moment of vengeance when he will drive a dagger deep into the back of his new chamberlain. The plot might sound like Racine, but it is just the screenplay for "La Cohabitation", a comedy of manners with tragic overtones adapted from an idea by Charles de Gaulle.

Anybody who thinks there is no room for elegant intrigue or lethal gesture in a world of soundbites and spin doctors would be relieved to behold the theatre offered in Paris as the political aristocracy have engaged in their struggle for power and been forced to share it in a *liaison* as dangerous as anything a *salon* plotter could offer.

The image of the vengeful Roi François, the rebellious Count

Chirac and the unctuous chamberlain Ballardur has been sketched a hundred times, not just in the press and on the television satire shows but also among the players. It is taken by everyone as a certainty that the president's burning aim is to put the knife in his new partner.

A master of intrigue with an exquisite knowledge of history, Mitterrand loves the dramatic gesture. Surely the images of all those legendary farewells, from Joan of Arc's to Napoleon's at Fontainebleau, were in his mind when Mitterrand brought his Socialist cabinet to tears with an hour-long adieu in which he vowed not to let the triumphant barons of the Gaullist party "lock me up in a rat trap or slit my throat in the dark".

without weight as Mitterrand and the new government have undertaken the *passation des pouvoirs*, a ritual full of suspense because of their rival and unresolved claims to legitimacy. A literate bunch, as comfortable with a pen as a stiletto, the political court has been acting out a well-known dialogue between the medieval Hugues I and the matinous Count Adalbert who asks: "Who made you king?" The monarch replies: "Who made you a count?"

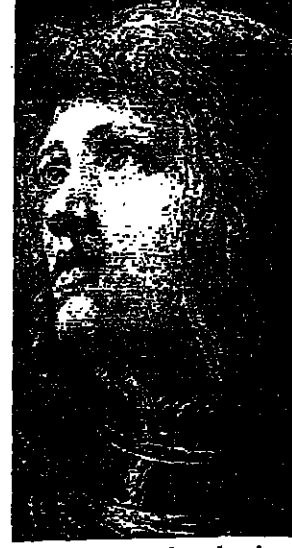
For Mitterrand, the victim of an ambiguous constitution, his role has been a question of proving, in the words of Louis XIV, that "L'état, c'est moi". Hence, the president's choice of music when he appeared on television on Monday night to announce that he had "chosen" Edouard Ballardur to head the new government, an appointment that

was born of a Gaullist offer that Mitterrand could not refuse. Before the president was seen on television, viewers were treated to a trumpet fanfare. The overture for the birth of *His Majesty*, which William Boyce wrote to please George II.

The ambience of theatre that masks the blood and mud of French political combat is partly a product of the stage set. The cast of characters are seen progressing regally from palace to palace, being ushered into gilded salons by uniformed flunkies.

The sense of play is bred most of all by the fact that the political court of whatever stripe, from left-wing Socialist to far-right conservative, is dominated by a band of superliterate Paris intellectuals, most of whom went to the high civil service college, the *École Nationale de l'Administration* (ENA).

Scan the CVs of the incoming crowd and you would find no difference from those of their departing ENA classmates (*énarques*). Like old-world courtiers, they share a need to pose as thoughtful types who are dragged reluctantly from their books to affairs of state and all the unpleasantness that goes with them. Alain Juppé, 47, the new foreign minister, and *énarque*, published the *Venice Temptation* last month. In it he writes that he felt condemned "to be a technocrat, a Parisian and an apparatchik" and would much rather be looking at Renaissance architecture. The master of elegant writing is fellow *énarque* M. Ballardur, whose self-effacing manner masks a gift for lethal putdowns. One circulating among disappointed seekers of cabinet posts this week was: "Promises only bind those to whom they are made."



Joan of Arc: inspiration for Mitterrand's speech

Balladur orders cabinet to curb lavish lifestyles

BY CHARLES BREMNER

EDOUARD Ballardur, the new French prime minister, launched his conservative government yesterday with orders to ministers to curb their lifestyles and signalled that France will remain firmly committed to European integration and strong ties with Germany.

At the first gathering of the 29-member cabinet, he told ministers to cut their expenses by 10 per cent, take ordinary airlines and keep their predecessors' cars. He plans to sell off a chunk of the government's fleet of private jets. The measures are aimed at breaking with the image of a

■ The appointment of a pro-Maastricht cabinet has quashed fears of conflict between France and its European partners over trade

government that wallows in official perks at a time of economic hardship.

The prime minister, who is an advocate of a strong link between the franc and the mark, said he would meet Helmut Kohl, the German chancellor, within the next two weeks. Although the pro-European sentiments of the new government will have come as a relief to President Mitterrand, M. Ballardur's trip will be the first test of the conservatives' determination

to conduct their own foreign policy in the face of Mitterrand's insistence that it should remain under his control under the terms of their "cohabitation". Alain Juppé, the foreign minister, was as outspoken as Jacques Chirac, his boss, during the campaign about the Gaullists' refusal to accord M. Mitterrand any special right to the domain.

M. Ballardur also ordered an audit of the national coffers and a study of the state of France as a preliminary to cutting the budget by 20 billion francs (£2.43 billion), creating jobs and cracking down on crime.

His choice of ministers has quashed fears of rapid conflict between France and its European partners over trade and the common agricultural policy. To the dismay of some hardline Gaullists, the cabinet is dominated by pro-Maastricht politicians from the centre, including staunchly pro-European Community agriculture and European affairs ministers, Jean Puech and Alain Lamassoure. Only Charles Pasqua, the interior minister, and François Fillon, 39, higher education minister, campaigned against the treaty in last year's referendum.

Political commentators speculated yesterday on how the government would reconcile the Gaullists' fighting words during the election campaign on the need to undo reforms to the common agricultural policy and abandon the US-EC farm agreement with their wish to promote the Maastricht cause.

Reviewing the likely path of the new team, *Le Monde* said the British government had every reason to be satisfied by

the new conservative government which favours a variable geometric Community in which Britain and Denmark would be allowed to opt out of policies they disliked.

The Ballardur government is expected, however, to mark out a stance on foreign affairs which differs from that of President Mitterrand. The new prime minister and M. Juppé have been critical of what they see as the president's slowness in adjusting to the post-communist world. This could mean greater support for new Community members and attempts to bring France closer to Washington and engage in greater participation in Nato.

While favouring close ties with Bonn, both M. Ballardur and M. Juppé have argued for a tougher approach towards Germany on such matters as interest rates.

The handover of ministries went smoothly yesterday with only the odd exception. Lucette Michaux-Chery, the new humanitarian action minister, criticised Bernard Kouchner, her popular predecessor, for displaying a neo-colonialist attitude. As a black woman from the French Caribbean, she said she was appalled by television footage of Dr Kouchner handing rice to starving Somali children.

The military were also none too happy over the appointment of François Léotard, leader of the centrist Republican party, as defence minister. A one-time Benedictine novice and an idealist who has never shown a taste for matters military, he is regarded with suspicion by senior officers.

William Rees-Mogg, page 18



In and out: Edouard Ballardur watches as Pierre Bérégovoy, his predecessor, leaves the Hôtel Matignon, the residence of the French prime minister

NEWS IN BRIEF

Tajikistan imposes curfew

Moscow: Tajikistan imposed a curfew and state of emergency in a volatile southern region yesterday, a day after two powerful warlords killed each other. The central Asian state mobilised all available security forces to maintain order and moved troops to the region from its vulnerable frontier with Afghanistan.

Tass said that Islamic rebels, exploiting the weakening of border defences, staged the latest in a series of attacks from the Afghan side. A Tajik journalist said there was an uneasy peace as the two warlords were buried. (Reuters)

Asylum change

Nuremberg: New rules from today will ease the German process of judging applications for political asylum, cutting waiting time to three months. A computer will help to gather asylum seekers in 46 camps. (Reuters)

Protest march

Lyon: About 40,000 people marched here to protest against the criminal conviction of 17 trade union leaders who in 1984 tried to prevent an arms and bicycle factory from closing. (Reuters)

Envoy judged

Rome: Werfalli Mussbah, a former Libyan envoy to Italy, was convicted in absentia for illegally carrying a gun. Investigators suspected the case was part of a plan by Colonel Muammar Gaddafi, the Libyan leader, to kill opponents abroad. (AP)

Mother's anger

Athens: Four Jehovah's Witnesses have appealed against jail sentences set by a court, for trying to convert brothers aged 17 and 14, whose Orthodox mother complained. (AP)

Bonn fights against transfer of capital

FROM MICHAEL BIVON IN BONN

PRESSURE is growing for Germany's political leaders to abandon Bonn, but the little capital by the Rhine is fighting back. President von Weizsäcker is to move his residence to Berlin this year, and Helmut Kohl, the chancellor, has begun looking for a comfortable villa. Even the president of the reluctant Bundestag is speaking of moving within four years.

Opponents of the decision to leave Bonn are mounting a last-ditch effort to rescind the resolution, however, by insisting that the move is too costly and complicated. About 120 MPs have signed a motion calling for a delay of at least 10 years, allowing Bonn to remain the seat of government until 2010.

The Bonn-Berlin tussle has become increasingly fraught and may become a main theme of next year's general

election. Herr von Weizsäcker, a former governing mayor of West Berlin, has expressed increasing impatience with the delay, which he believes will further embitter east Germans who see unification as a wholesale takeover by Bonn.

Proponents of the move have denounced as extravagant and unrealistic the plans for remodelling the Reichstag and building a huge new government quarter on the banks of the Spree.

Opposition to Berlin comes especially from southern and western Germany. Bavaria has long resented the influence of Prussia, and the Bavarian-based Christian Social Union is in open revolt against the relocation to the east.

Bonn, which faces devastation if the government leaves, has mounted a costly campaign to halt or delay the move.

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Always a good sign.

Newsmen fail to enjoy EC's joke

FROM TOM WALKER IN BRUSSELS

TRYING to revamp the jaded way it communicates policy, the European Commission produced a document so ridiculous yesterday that journalists tried to discover if it was meant to mark the first official Euro All Fools' day.

Apparently it was not. The 51-page *Reflection on Information Policy of the European Community* is the EC's serious response to the failure of Danish voters thoroughly to appreciate what a wonderful thing the Maastricht treaty is. "European union must be presented and promoted to the public as a good product," the report says. With Danish opinion polls leaning towards another rejection, the "reflection" may be what is needed to push them in the right way.

The report makes clear that the media was mostly to blame for Maastricht's difficult passage, and journalists should not be allowed to get away with it again. "The media must be persuaded to present the achievements, the benefits, the opportunities [of European union] in a positive, optimistic way, and not delight in criticism and failure," the document recommends.

More specifically, "newscasters and reporters must themselves be targeted, they must themselves be persuaded about European union so that they become enthusiastic supporters of the cause". A further note to television journalists suggests that "when ever feasible" the European flag should be shown in motion.

To be fair to João de Deus Pinheiro, the information commissioner, presenting all this to 500 journalists took some courage. As more re-

porters either left the room or told the commissioner just what they thought of the "reflection", he smiled benignly and said what good points everybody was making. Unfortunately Willy de Clercq, former Belgian foreign minister and co-drafter of the report, did not take so kindly to being compared to "a Greek colonel" and began shouting and gesticulating. He was particularly irked by questions about page 27 of the report. That contains information about just how Europe Year Zero could be achieved. "Schoolbooks should be reviewed... to ensure that a European dimension is given to our past," it recommends. "You think we are talking about brainwashing - no, no, no." Mr De Clercq screamed. When asked if he wished to dissociate himself from the "reflection", Senhor de Deus Pinheiro refused: journalists were being "rude and crude".

With its jaunty red border, the controversial document's similarity with previous attempts at mass conversion are striking. It points out that, apart from journalists (also known as "transmitters"), women and the young should be force-fed with healthy chunks of Maastricht whenever possible. "Women are more likely to recognise intuitively, and faster than men, the existential advantages of a 'better tomorrow'." It says. If women cease to exist, however, their function can be taken over by the EC institutions. "They must be brought closer to the people, implicitly evoking the maternal, nurturing care of 'Europa' for all her children."

Devolutionists quizzed on joining Rome cabinet

FROM JOHN PHILLIPS IN ROME

PRESIDENT Scalfaro of Italy yesterday consulted Umberto Bossi, leader of the Lombardy League, on bringing his devolutionist grouping into a government to replace the moribund coalition of Giuliano Amato, the Socialist prime minister.

Signor Scalfaro continued informal talks with political leaders for a second day yesterday after Signor Amato made it clear he is ready to resign as soon as a stronger government is feasible. In addition to listening to Signor Bossi, the president sounded out the views of Leoluca Orlando, the leader of the anti-Mafia party La Rete (Network) and of leaders of Communist Refoundation, the Marxist grouping.

Political sources said that Signor Bossi was prepared for the League, the fourth largest party in parliament, to join an administration as long as the prime minister were not from the scandal-tainted Christian Democrats. President Scalfaro had persuaded Signor Amato to remain in office in name alone until a crucial electoral reform referendum April 18 on ending the proportional representation system. "Amato in quarantine," said a headline in *La Repubblica* newspaper. "Government crisis in the freezer: waiting for the referendum," the *Corriere della Sera* reported.

On Tuesday, the president had held out the prospect of replacing the Amato administration immediately. However, after he had conferred with the speakers of the Senate and Chamber of Deputies, Giovanni Spadolini and Giorgio Napolitano, he evidently de-

cided that a rapid change of government could disrupt the referendum campaign.

The decision to put the Amato administration on ice was criticised bitterly by the Socialist party, which had put pressure on the president to name a new prime minister-designate before the referendum. "Every delay to after April 18 sounds hypocritical and dangerous," said a statement by the Socialist party secretariat. "Whoever wants to

Buenos Aires: Members of the Argentine government and President Menem's estranged wife's family have been linked to bribery scandals involving Italian politicians and companies facing corruption charges (Gabriella Giamini writes).

The Italian judiciary is asking what happened to \$59 million (£39 million) given to Argentina in 1990 by the Rome government for building homes for poor families and social projects, which were never developed.

prevaricate or take time will assume very grave responsibilities for the institutions of the republic."

La Stampa speculated that the president's consultations were designed in part to defuse pressure among the old guard of the political system for an early general election before the referendum. Arnaldo Forlani, the former secretary of the Christian Democrats, said that the party "should prepare to go to the country without complexes

and exaggeration". According to *La Stampa*, many Christian Democrats would prefer to fight an election before the referendum because they risk losing their seats under a reformed winner-takes-all system after the vote.

In a sign of failing stamina, Signor Amato yesterday decided it was not worth replacing Franco Reviglio, the finance minister who on Tuesday became the seventh member of the government to resign since it was formed nine months ago. The prime minister will take over the portfolio himself in an interim capacity, his office said. In the past, Signor Amato had refused to make interim appointments when ministers resigned, as he believed that such decisions made the days of the government seem numbered.

President Scalfaro's main hope is to prepare the ground steadily for a broad "coalition of national safety", including the former Communist Democratic Party of the Left and the Republicans, to be formed immediately after the referendum. Signor Bossi said he would welcome a government led by Signor Napolitano, a moderate member of the former Communist Democratic Party of the Left and former Second World War anti-fascist partisan.

Judges investigating the corruption scandal convulsing the country yesterday advised Michele Martini, the Italian ambassador in Jakarta, that he was under investigation in connection with alleged bribery by companies in return for contracts for lucrative overseas aid projects.

501 1000000

No-fly zone threatened

Moscow will veto ground attacks on Serb targets

By TIM JUDAH, DESSA TREVISAN AND EVE-ANN PRENTICE

VITALI Churkin, Russia's deputy foreign minister, urged the Bosnian Serbs yesterday to accept the Vance-Owen peace plan for Bosnia-Herzegovina. Moscow at the same time said it would veto any Western moves to attack Serb targets on the ground.

Russia said it would vote against enforcing a no-fly zone over Bosnia unless a United Nations resolution now being discussed was changed to ban attacks on ground targets. The Interfax news agency said this position, agreed with President Yeltsin, was shared by several countries.

Mr Churkin, Mr Yeltsin's special envoy, met Bosnian Serb leaders at their headquarters at Pale, near Sarajevo, after talks on Tuesday with Slobodan Milosevic, the Serbian president. Nikola Kojovic, the Bosnian Serb vice-president, said after the meeting that Mr Churkin had insisted "that we approve the Vance-Owen plan but he did not even raise the matter of the maps... We did."

The Bosnian Serbs have rejected the Vance-Owen map dividing Bosnia into ten autonomous provinces on the ground that it is unacceptable. Diplomatic sources believe the Serbs are rejecting the pro-

posed division because it would make an eventual union of Bosnian Serb territories with Serbia impossible.

Mr Kojovic said he believed the Bosnian Serb deputies would vote to accept the Vance-Owen plan, but only on condition that there were further talks over the map. Serb officials have been following developments in Moscow closely and have made no secret of their desire to see the fall of Mr Yeltsin in favour of hardline conservatives who have been demanding Russian support for their Orthodox Slav kin, the Serbs.

In Zagreb, the Croatian capital, UN and aid agency officials announced that up to 10,000 Bosnians, mostly Muslims, had fled to Croatia this year as a result of "ethnic cleansing" in Serb-occupied northern Bosnia. Relief officials said Serbs who seized much of Bosnia after rejecting its secession from Yugoslavia were relentlessly purging Muslim and Croat communities in the north while world attention is diverted by the refugees in the east.

Bosnia will accuse the rump Yugoslavia today of genocide and other war crimes in hearings before the International Court of Justice in The

Hague. The republic has asked the court for an emergency ruling, ordering Yugoslavia immediately to halt all killings, destruction of towns and villages and "ethnic cleansing". Bosnia has also asked the court to declare that it has a right to seek military assistance from other states.

In Belgrade, Yugoslavia's largest bank has limited all payments and appealed for government financial support, press reports said. The alleged problems of the Dabim Bank came less than a month after the Jugoskandic Bank, its largest rival, closed its doors after Jozimir Vasiljevic, its owner, fled the country. Opposition leaders have repeatedly given warning of widespread social unrest if both banks close.



Battle for bread: some of the 2,300 refugees who fled eastern Bosnia in UN lorries struggling for loaves handed over by bystanders who had welcomed them to Tuzla, 50 miles north of Sarajevo. The refugees had been carried in a convoy returning after delivering relief

Refugees crushed, page 1

Slovakia uranium suspects go free

By CHRISTOPHER ELLIOTT

SLOVAK police have been forced to release two businessmen they charged with illegally handling weapons-grade radioactive material after only 24 hours in custody.

Officials said yesterday that 6.6lb of uranium-235 had been seized in the city of Svolen, the former heart of Slovakia's arms industry. The men were arrested after their car was stopped for a routine check, said Stefan Zaciak, a chief police investigator.

The two, whose identity was not disclosed, were freed a day later as prosecutors could not prepare a case within the 24 hours laid down by Slovak

law. Police gave no details about the origin of the uranium but the CTK Czech news agency said it came from Russia. There has been growing international concern over the traffic in radioactive materials from the former Soviet Union. The matter has been raised at two international conferences in Warsaw in the past month, both attended by British police. Germany is particularly concerned. Last year about 100 incidents were reported of attempts to smuggle radioactive materials through the country.

Dr Frank Barnaby, a nuclear physicist and expert observer on the smuggling of uranium, said last night: "To be weapons-grade plutonium, uranium-235 must be enriched by 90 per cent. Russian subs use around 20 per cent enriched uranium in their reactors."

"Much of these incidents involve con men, but it would be very rash to believe that this smuggling is not happening. It is the potential that everyone is afraid of."

Police also detained and released Jan Farkas, Slovakia's self-proclaimed gypsy king, in connection with the uranium seizure.



Barnaby: fears about nuclear smuggling

Chameleon hides his true colours

FROM ANNE McELVOY IN MOSCOW

Ruslan Khasbulatov, the flamboyant chairman of Russia's parliament and congress and foe of radical reform, is the most compelling figure on the crowded Moscow stage. He embodies all the ready contradictions of post-communist politics with several of his own making thrown in for variety.

A self-proclaimed parliamentary democrat, he employs the florid rhetoric of the rabble-rouser from the podium. His methods of wheedling the desired result out of deputies, whether by cutting sessions short, extending them or changing the motions as he goes along, would make a Leninist blush. A native Chechen, and thus non-Slav, he bangs the nationalist drum for a mighty Russia.

His countrymen in Grozny, the Chechen capital, which wants to secede from Moscow, threw their television sets out of windows in a demonstration of fury last week when he announced that the most important thing in the Russian Federation was that ethnic Russians were happy and strong.

His noisily aired principles are subject to bewildering changes. Last Wednesday, he said that it was "as

clear as day" that President Yeltsin deserved impeachment. On Thursday, he said: "I am personally against impeachment. It is an extreme measure." He was one of the team who initially drafted the treaty that paved the way to the break-up of the Soviet Union, but recently announced that that was "a mistake parliament should reconsider."

Not that you would gather any of this from reading the first expose of his thoughts to appear in English, published today. Mr Khasbulatov's most outstanding characteristic is that he often sounds perfectly reasonable unless closely questioned on what he means, at which point he starts to opine with equal gravity on something different. It is not surprising that Russian interviewers, timid in the art of cross-examination, do not take him to task.

The volume contains some wonderful examples of craven questions, the pearl, perhaps, being: "Now that you have risen so high, have you forgotten your old friends?" *The Struggle for Russia*, edited by Richard Sakwa (Routledge: £19.99).

Will the changes in Community Care affect you?

"What is Community Care?"

"What if I care for somebody and need help?"

"Can I choose my own Home?"

"What about people like me, who are already in Homes?"

"Who will decide what help I need?"

"What about my benefits?"

"Who will pay for my care?"

"What if I also need help from the NHS?"

The Community Care reforms could affect everybody who needs help to live at home, or needs residential/nursing home care.

From April, local Social Services Departments (Social Work Departments in Scotland) will be responsible for assessing what should be done for those who cannot manage on their own.

For some people this means providing the services that will let them stay on in their own homes.

For others a place in a residential care or nursing home

might be the answer. (There will be new arrangements in the way people are helped to pay for residential and nursing home care.)

There are two free leaflets which explain the changes. Pick them up at main Post Offices.

You can also phone 0800 210211 FREE any time, or send the coupon to: Community Care, FREEPOST BS528/90, BRISTOL BS3 3YY.

To: Community Care, FREE-POST BS528/90, BRISTOL BS3 3YY.

Please send me copies of "Community Care Changes in April 1993", and "Care in the Community".

Name (Mr/Mrs/Ms) _____ (Block capitals please)

Address _____

Postcode _____



As the world's greatest chess tournament is launched, *The Times* talks to the young British challenger

Inside the mind of a chess titan

Nigel Short tells
Alan Franks in
Monte Carlo of
his ambitions
for the game
and his burning
need to trounce
his arch rival,
Gary Kasparov

Nigel Short is on holiday in the South of France, but it is the bossman's sort. He spends his days in the plushness of the Metropole Hotel, skimming his way through rapid chess matches and fixing his formidable attention on the world championship showdown with Gary Kasparov in London next September. Sometimes he plays blindfold, but his vision of the game's future, and of his own decisive moves, are clearer than ever.

Yesterday morning, as news broke that *The Times* had secured the Short-Kasparov match with the largest prize fund in the history of chess, he spoke with great enthusiasm of the fixture and of its implications for the popularity of the game. "It is excellent news for chess in Britain," he said. "In due course, it would be marvellous to see us running not only the most important item in the chess calendar, but also the qualifying events."

Short has become an unlikely 50 per cent of what in mainstream sporting circles would be called a rebel pair. In moving beyond the auspices of the international chess federation, Fide, to set up the match, they have started a brand new movement, the Professional Chess Association (PCA). Never mind the casinos that bear down on Short from every side, this is the man who broke ranks at Monte Carlo.

For the time being, the chess association has just two members. But what a pair. As their game takes a growing hold on the public imagination, so these two men find themselves yoked into the strangest of supportive ensembles, like Ali and Frazier, or Nastase and Smith, or Kerry Packer's cricket circus, or Lamar Hunt's first tennis pros. Short dismisses none of these analogies. In fact he relishes them, and tennis is his favourite: "Gary's serve is awesome," he says, without a trace of irony.

His serve? "Yes, and it is hard enough to keep the ball in court, never mind a passing shot. What I am saying is that his greatest gift is his opening repertoire."

If Kasparov is not the subject closest to Short's heart it is the one closest to his head. Quite simply, he cannot get the man out of his mind,



Getting fit for the London contest: although Nigel Short is relaxing by the Mediterranean and playing in a series of gentle invitation matches, his mental preparation is well under way

and since yesterday's news this is probably truer than it has ever been. This break in the leisurely reaches of international chess-playing cannot shift the obsession. He will return to the subject of the game's politics if he must, but this is soon checked by the subject of *The Match*, and *The Opponent*.

"We remain very different. Different views, different values. Although on this (the Professional Chess Association), we see more or less eye to eye. Then we are stylistically very different as well. I mean as chess players. Actually my relationship has improved with him over the last week or so. Especially when I've been talking to the guy face to face. I saw him two Sundays ago, the evening of the March 21. I was terribly jet-lagged and unslept, having just come back from Washington, Paris and Brussels, and we said hello and made sure things were OK."

But does Short actually like Kasparov?

"Not really, no." And yet their disaffection with the running of world chess has forced them to make common

cause. "That's true. That has been a catalyst. We are both very committed to the idea of players having more control over their own lives. It would not be untrue to say that what we want is player power. I have maintained that the key thing is the world championship cycle, and Gary agrees. I also want to see a circuit of rapid chess events in cities all over the world, because it is such a good means of popularising the game."

The tournament in which Short is currently playing could hardly be further from the tense, cold-eyed encounters between Kasparov and Karpov in the 1980s, or the scarcely contained histrionics of Fischer-Spassky in the previous decade. For this week's proceedings there is a purse of just \$25,000 (£16,700) split between the categories of blindfold and rapid. It is sponsored by a Dutch businessman and recently-accredited correspondence grandmaster,

Mr Job Van Oosterom. There are 12 players, all of them here by personal invitation. If the Savoy Hotel were Wimbledon, then this might be Queen's.

Despite the relative obscurity, famous players come and go in the

looking for Karpov. She has a son sick with hepatitis, and he is a great Karpov fan, she wonders if she can ask him to sign some photographs for her.

Short says he is trying to relax down here, but that it has not been easy. On the surface,

he is doing very well at it. If he had a David Gower agent, he too would be called laid-back. In fact he has a kind of passionate languor, and an easy rangy hope; he veers between droll young physics teacher and track-

hungry greyhound. He himself talks often of match fitness; he has done several weeks of training with his Czech-born teacher Lubosh Kavalek. "We look at all Kasparov's games," he says, "going all the way back to his early youth. On our database we have a total of hundreds of thousands of chess games. We analyse Kasparov's opening repertoire. We study how he has played before, because that is the

best guide to how he will play again. Then we try and find the weaknesses."

Presumably Kasparov is now doing the same to Short's game.

"Oh yes. But so am I. If you don't look at the flaws in your own style you can never hope to eradicate them." For his time in Monaco, Short is without his Greek-born wife Rea, a drama therapist, and their two-year-old daughter Kiveli, and confesses he misses them dreadfully. He adds that it is not rare for him to feel on edge when he is competing in big-time tournaments, rather than just "pushing the pawns around" in a very affable place.

In this context it is hard to think of young Nigel climbing through the ropes on equal terms with that dark, distressful Kasparov. Yet he is the best chess player we have ever produced and has quite as much right to share a board with him as does Lennox Lewis to share a ring with Riddick Bowe.

Short's close friend Adam Black, who helped him to set up the Professional Chess Association and who is in Monaco with him,

believes that Kasparov/Short this year is right up with Kasparov/Karpov and Fischer/Spassky. People have said it lacks that Cold War drama of the early 1970s. Maybe, but it coincides with the end of the Soviet (chess) domination that has been there since 1947.

Like Short, Black hopes that the PCA will bring to the circuit a stability that has been lacking. "The trouble is that there is no common denominator among who puts money into the events," he says. "There are rich individuals, then there are city authorities and then insurance and financial services. And because this sponsorship is so irregular, it's very hard to play regular cycles, which in turn is a bad arrangement for the players." When asked to assess his friend's chances against "Kazza", Black goes for the football rather than the tennis analogy. "Just like I rated Wimbledon's when the played Liverpool in the FA Cup final."

Wimbledon won 1-0. As for Short, he is silent on the subject for the moment. Just like he used to be about Kasparov.

'I want to see a circuit of rapid chess events in cities all over the world, because it is such a good way of popularising the game'

How the show came to London

It might, on the face of it, seem a curious ambition to wish to rid chess of its "feudal trappings". The game is quintessentially feudal, built around the efforts of rival courts to capture the enemy king, and the game's moves have been refined only slowly over the centuries within a rigid framework of medieval combat.

The Times, however, has felt for some years that a breakout from the established administrative structure would benefit not just the top players — who could expect to see their incomes rise to match those of other leading sportsmen — but the game itself, which for generations has been forced to follow the dictates of Fide, the notoriously conservative international governing body.

Tuesday's announcement by *The Times*, and its co-sponsor, Teleworld of Rotterdam, of *The Times* World Chess Championship, to be contested between Gary

Walter Ellis on the behind-the-scenes battle to stage the world championship

Kasparov, of Russia, and Nigel Short, of Britain, is a particular triumph for Raymond Keene, this paper's distinguished chess correspondent, and Daniel Johnson, the literary editor and an enthusiastic player.

Ever since the 1985 world championship was halted by the Fide president, Florencio Campomanes, when the challenger, Kasparov, began to move ahead of the "approved" champion, Anatoly Karpov, Keene has maintained that chess was in the grip of interests inimical to the players.

Keene is determined to wrest control of the world game away from Fide on behalf of the players, and, while opposed by much of the chess Establishment, has the active

support of Kasparov and Short, respectively the unbeaten world champion and his recognised No. 1 challenger.

Johnson, a friend of both players, is equally convinced of the need for reform. He was the one who first raised with the Editor of *The Times*, Peter Stothard, the possibility of sponsoring the world championship in Britain, and has worked assiduously ever since to convert the dream into a reality.

Ideologically, the two journalists and their editor were on common ground. Stothard yesterday described Fide as "tired in the politics of the Cold War". Negotiating with the federation, he said, "meant wading through layers of Third World and communist bureaucracy, set up by Moscow (in pre-Gorbachev times) to promote the glory of the Soviet state".

Even so, the newspaper's involvement in the world championship was initially routed via Fide. It was, after all, the only recognised global organiser and had run the various eliminators that yielded Short as the contender.

Fide, as usual, had invited bids to stage its world championship. With Short as the first British challenger this century, it was clear that a United Kingdom bid would have to be sympathetically considered. On February 22, Manchester put up a bid worth £1.15 million. The London Chess Group, a consortium led by Matthew Patten, of The Sponsorship Consultancy, and including the *Evening Standard*, simultaneously bid £1.05 million, while Channel 4 and the International Management Group came up with £1.19 million.

The Times, working against the clock, had tried to mount its own bid in concert with such bodies as the Corporation of the City of London, Guinness and C4. But the momentum in favour of Manchester was formidable.

Fide's decision, on February 23, to accept the Manchester bid was

well-received generally in England — where Short was beginning to get the attention normally reserved for football players or top snooker players — but caused fury in the players' camp. Kasparov, who has hated the world federation ever since his aborted match with Karpov in 1985, had already made it clear he favoured London and disliked the Manchester venue. But it was Manchester-born Short who caused the real stir when he let it be known he was furious about the northern option and even more furious not to have been consulted.

For Fide, it was the move that was to lose them the game. The champion and his challenger were determined they would not become mere pawns in their own game. Three days later, after frantic discussions, the champion and challenger announced that they would stage their own championship under the auspices of their newly-formed Professional Chess Association (PCA).

Johnson knew that this was a golden opportunity for *The Times*. His editor was increasingly convinced that the paper should go for broke on the chess issue, on which the paper had run several bullish leaders. Informal contacts with Kasparov had already been made during a successful *Times*-sponsored charity tournament in London. The paper's bid, of £1.7 million, made in conjunction with Teleworld of Rotterdam, won out in a second, independent bidding round against competition from The Brain Foundation, the Monist Group, the London Chess Group and Intel.

Kasparov and Short were impressed not just by the £1.7 million in prize money (to be divided 5-2-1 between winner and loser) but by the assurance that full facilities would be provided in London and that they, with Keene, would be in control of the event.

At a lunch hosted by Stothard in the Reform Club two weeks ago, the two contestants were given a chance by *The Times* to reconcile their previous differences and emerged as allies as well as adver-



Kasparov: 'The Times will bring chess to a mainstream audience'

saries in the struggle for player power. *Times* readers will benefit as well. Keene and *The Times* reporters will have exclusive access to the players during their match, probably to be held in September, and, via Teleworld, will have the chance to engage in an interactive competition to predict each move made.

Even as the deal was done yesterday, however, the *Evening Standard*, part of a rival consortium, published an article entitled "Times makes a false move over chess", disputing the outcome of the negotiations. Kasparov moved quickly to repeat his commitment to *The Times*.

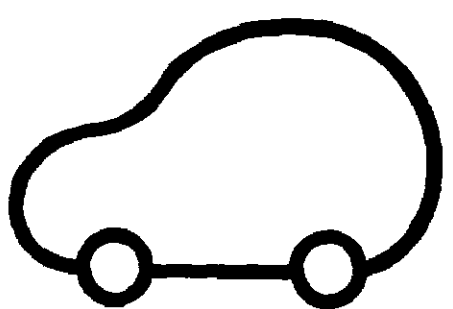
"I am pleased that a newspaper with such a great reputation and which is part of such an important organisation worldwide is staging the event," Kasparov said. "I strongly supported the involvement of *The Times* from the beginning. It is important for the credibility of

the PCA and the bringing of chess to a mainstream audience."

Mr Stothard said last night: "Chess is a business in which passions run high. I am confident that following the players' agreement in principle to the *Times* bid on Tuesday, the final details will be resolved as planned in the next two weeks."

The Times World Chess Championship is a bold venture. No one can know its outcome. The international federation is an implacable foe and still has the loyalty, however strained, of many of the world's grandmasters. Yet Kasparov and Short are fighting what could well prove the crucial battle in a war against Fide which was begun two decades ago by the mercurial — now marooned — Bobby Fischer. Should they win, the opportunities for future generation of chess players will be immeasurably enhanced.

Nobody's Fool.



The new 16-valve Micra. NISSAN

THE TIMES WORLD CHESS CHAMPIONSHIP

THIS autumn *The Times* will bring you a ringside seat at the greatest chess match in the world

TODAY

Chess correspondent Raymond Keene analyses how the patient waiting game of Nigel Short may fare against the restless turbulence of Gary Kasparov

SATURDAY

A nine-year-old chess Master, the youngest ever, tells Matthew d'Ancona how the whole family can learn to love the game

Look out for *The Times*'s essential guide for beginners

Only *The Times* will provide full exclusive details of the historic championship and privileged opportunities for readers to watch the games and play the contestants

The Times is the paper for chess

Keeping a straight face

DOCTORS working at Jerusalem University have devised scientific measurements to confirm the everyday observation that women's skin ages faster than men's.

General Practitioner reports that Professor Shabtay Dikstein has measured various qualities of the skin: its oiliness, moisture, softness and elasticity.

The results of the experiments suggest that even premenstrually, women have more wrinkles than men. In the 20-to-40 age group, women are 40 per cent more wrinkled, among the over-60s, women are 75 per cent more wrinkled. Previous research has also shown that in both sexes wrinkles are very much more profuse in smokers than non-smokers, and that women who smoke heavily risk developing a grey, coarsened skin.

Professor Dikstein is working on a project to determine which of the female hormones are needed to preserve a youthful complexion.

A different study, from the Dulwich hospital menopause clinic, in south London, reported in the magazine, *Menopause*, has been investigating the relationship of hormone replacement therapy (HRT) to



the proportion of the various types of collagen in a patient's skin.

Collagen is the main supportive protein of connective tissue which gives skin its elasticity and firmness. Although there are over 14 different types of collagen, the principle sub-types in human skin are types 1 and 3. The proportion of type 3 to type 1 falls as age increases: in women, once the menopause has been reached, this ratio falls rapidly.

However, taking HRT can maintain the proportion of type 3 to type 1 collagen, and the trend can even be reversed.

HRT may not give a woman the peaches and cream skin of adolescence, but it may save the skin from appearing like thin, wrinkled parchment of old age.

On a 'wonder' drug, wrinkles and bus conductors' hearts

Secret benefits of aspirin

FORTY years ago, one of the unsolved medical puzzles in my Norfolk home village, where I practised, was why so many of our patients were still alive. Despite the rigours of rural life, and despite suffering from a variety of non-lethal symptoms, which if the patients had been in London would have guaranteed endless visits to the local hospital, they continued with their daily lives.

In retrospect, it seems possible that their longevity may have been because my elderly partner relied heavily on the greatest wonder drug of all times — aspirin. Many of the patients were arthritic after years of manual work in the fields and exposure to the weather. Aspirin, then as now, was the initial treatment of choice. But even if patients did not suffer aches and pains, aspirin was still the magic ingredient in many of the older doctor's bottles of brown medicine. For those patients who were more modern and preferred tablets, the surgery shelves were stacked with aspirin in various gaudy colours. So if they grew tired of their treatment the colour of their pill could be promptly changed.

My very conservative partner was ahead of his time. Aspirin is now acknowledged not just as a painkiller but as a most amazing drug with a variety of uses. A daily aspirin reduces

the likelihood of suffering coronary thrombosis, a transient ischaemic attack (temporary damage to the brain caused by a small blood clot), actual strokes and cataracts.

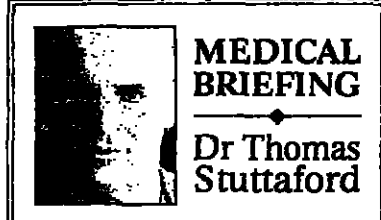
Earlier research has shown that patients with rheumatoid arthritis are less likely to develop many cancers. It is now thought that this may be a consequence of treatment with aspirin.

evidence that aspirin has a protective effect against colorectal cancer.

At the spring meeting of the British Society of Gastroenterology at Manchester, statistics were presented which suggested that in patients who took a daily aspirin, or one of the other non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs, the incidence of cancer of the colon and rectum was reduced by about a half.

Dr Richard Logan, a consultant physician at the Nottingham University Hospital who led the research team, drew the attention of the meeting to one strange feature of the statistics: if the patients had prescribed daily drugs for themselves, rather than obtained them through a doctor's prescription, the effect was enhanced. Patients who took the doctor-prescribed anti-inflammatory agents had a reduction of a third in the incidence of cancer. If the drugs were self-prescribed, the figure was over a half. These figures will have to be confirmed by larger trials.

This, particular cancer, is the commonest malignancy in Britain and accounts for 19,500 deaths annually. The Imperial Cancer Research campaign is planning a £3 million investigation into the possibility of screening patients, once only, between the ages of 55 and 60. It estimates that such a programme would save 3,500 lives annually.



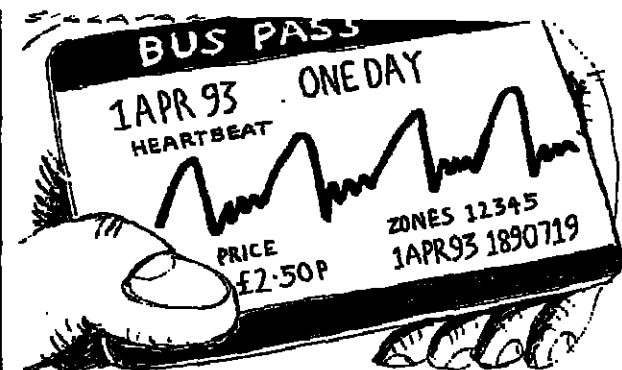
MEDICAL BRIEFING

Dr Thomas Stuttford

or one of the other similar drugs, the so-called non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs. Hence perhaps a reason why so many of the Norfolk labourers lived so long despite their creaking joints.

Recently there have been reports that a small daily dose of aspirin reduces the chance of developing cancer of the gastro-intestinal tract in general, and the colon, the large bowel and the rectum in particular.

Pulse magazine has reported details of one of the most striking pieces of



Just the ticket

COMPARISON between the rate of coronary heart disease in bus conductors and bus drivers have always intrigued doctors.

The simple explanation for the lower incidence of heart attacks in bus conductors is that walking up and down the bus, coupled with a less tense life as they are spared the constant confrontation with the traffic, accounts for this difference.

Further evidence to support this standard theory is provided by figures which show that the rate of heart disease is dependent on the route. Bus drivers on quiet country routes have less heart disease than those in busy city centres. Recent research, published

in the *International Journal of Epidemiology*, based on a ten-year study of bus drivers in Denmark confirms all the known facts but adds one surprising statistic.

Bus drivers who hate their job, who are dissatisfied with the daily grind through crowded streets, are less likely to have heart attacks than those who report that they enjoy their work. No explanation is offered by the researchers but it opens up a new line of investigation.

It had always been thought that people who did not have job satisfaction, to whom going to work on a Monday was a misery, could be irretrievably damaging their health. It now seems possible that the grumbling, irate bus driver, or the miserable office worker, may be at no greater risk than their cheerful, contented colleagues.

'Why did God let me get pregnant?' a mother suffering from Aids asks Jeremy Laurance

There are some things 18-month-old Dean Griffiths will one day wish he had never been told. While all children have uncertain futures, Dean's is already burdened with more tragedy than most.

Both his parents are dying from Aids-related diseases. He may also be HIV positive. When he is tested for the virus, after his second birthday in July, the outcome will determine not only how long he has to live, but who will care for him — and how.

"I have talked to my sisters back in Dublin and they are trying to come to some sort of arrangement," Billy Griffiths, Dean's father, says.

"One said she could take him, but only if he is clear of the disease. She couldn't cope otherwise."

The Griffiths know they are unlikely to live to see Dean ride a bicycle, score a goal or kiss a girl. But their fears are for his future, not their own. "God willing the test will be negative," Mr Griffiths, 30, says. "Then things will look a lot brighter."

At a home-laying ceremony at the Mildmay Aids hospice in east London last week, where the world's first mother and child Aids unit is being built, the Griffiths family presented their son to Baroness Cumberlege, the junior health minister. Ignoring the flowers he was supposed to give her, Dean stole her hard hat and performed antics for the crowd. His parents smiled helplessly. "Our heart is broken 24 hours a day," Iola, his mother, says.

A child doomed to be an orphan

The minister paid tribute to their courage. "It is so important people come out and talk about the disease," she said. "It is the only tool we have to fight it."

Mr Griffiths, looking pale and drawn, hoisted Dean unsteadily onto his shoulders to pose for the cameras in front of the £3.3 million building, paid for by charity, where families will go to die. Keeping parents and children together matters, says Ruth Sims, the chief executive of Mildmay. "Being parted from your child is always painful but imagine how much more painful that parting would be if you knew your time with your child was limited," she says.

The couple have been married for 11 years. "I met him on a blind date," Iola says. "He was my first sweetheart." Mrs Griffiths, 28, had no plans to have a family until she was taken to hospital after collapsing one day in the spring of 1991. A doctor broke the news to her: she was seven months pregnant. "I was shattered and he couldn't understand it," she says. "I told him I was HIV positive. It would have been sheer stupidity to even take the chance of becoming pregnant. I didn't want the baby, but it was too late to have an

abortion. The rest of the pregnancy was sheer hell because I was so frightened there would be something wrong with him."

Dean was born healthy, but his parents' health declined as their condition progressed from HIV infection to Aids. The platelet count in their blood fell and they contracted a type of pneumonia associated with Aids. Now they both suffer bouts of exhaustion which leave them unable to get out of bed and, as their immune systems weaken, they bleed and bruise more easily. Every ten weeks, they go into hospital for two weeks' respite care.

More than 100 children in

Britain have died of Aids and about 450 are infected with HIV. Up to now, Mildmay hospital, which has pioneered the care of terminal Aids patients, has had only two suites for families. The new unit will have 12 bedrooms to allow mothers and children to be cared for together, and separate suites for patients' families. It will also provide a playground, day crèche and counselling rooms.

When Mr and Mrs Griffiths enter for respite care, they have to leave Dean with relatives. Once the new unit is open they, or families like them, will be able to keep their children with them. Running costs will be met by the health department for adults but not for the children. These costs will have to be met from charity.

Intimations of mortality

Wanted: a million women to suffer from cancer before they contract it

Imagine a topsy-turvy world in which the patients are not ill and the doctor does not know best. A world where, in the best Alice in Wonderland tradition, treatment is randomly allocated by a computer. It may sound like science fiction, but this, many experts believe, is an accurate description of the future for cancer medicine.

Professor Michael Baum of the Royal Marsden Hospital, London, and the government's leading adviser on breast cancer treatment trials, announced in this week's *Lancet* that he is looking for a million healthy European women volunteers. From the age of 35 onwards, they will be forced to face up to their own mortality. They will be trained in the intricacies of new forms of cancer treatment, versed in the principles of multi-centre randomised control trials. Then, when they get cancer — as one in three people do — they will be prepared for it.

Doctors who support Professor Baum's proposal argue that we need such a scheme because any woman, just told she has cancer, is devastated by the diagnosis. The last thing she wants is a doctor telling her he has no idea which follow-up treatment is most likely to save her life, then suggesting she take part in a clinical trial, with her treatment decided by a computer.

Doctors are not always certain which treatments are best to prevent any recurrence, particularly, for example, if a woman has a very early form of cancer, known as ductal carcinoma in situ, which is only identified by mammograms, and will only become a true breast cancer in a small number of cases.

If she agrees to the trial, she must give "informed consent". This means the doctor will probably outline about four

treatment options, detailing each one's unpleasant side effects. She will have to imagine each of these, when in fact she will be assigned to one.

Far better, Professor Baum argues, to have a pool of women who have already taken on board all these issues when they are fit and well and can offer true "informed consent". Professor Baum's women would already know that the whole principle of a clinical trial is negated if they or the doctor chooses the treatment. They will also have read research showing that when doctors do not know which treatment is best, patients who take part in trials tend to fare better.

In such trials, statisticians set up several groups of people, comparable in every way except for the treatment they are given. Each is randomly allocated, by computer, to one of these groups. Then they wait for about five years to see which group fares better in terms of deaths and cancer recurrence.

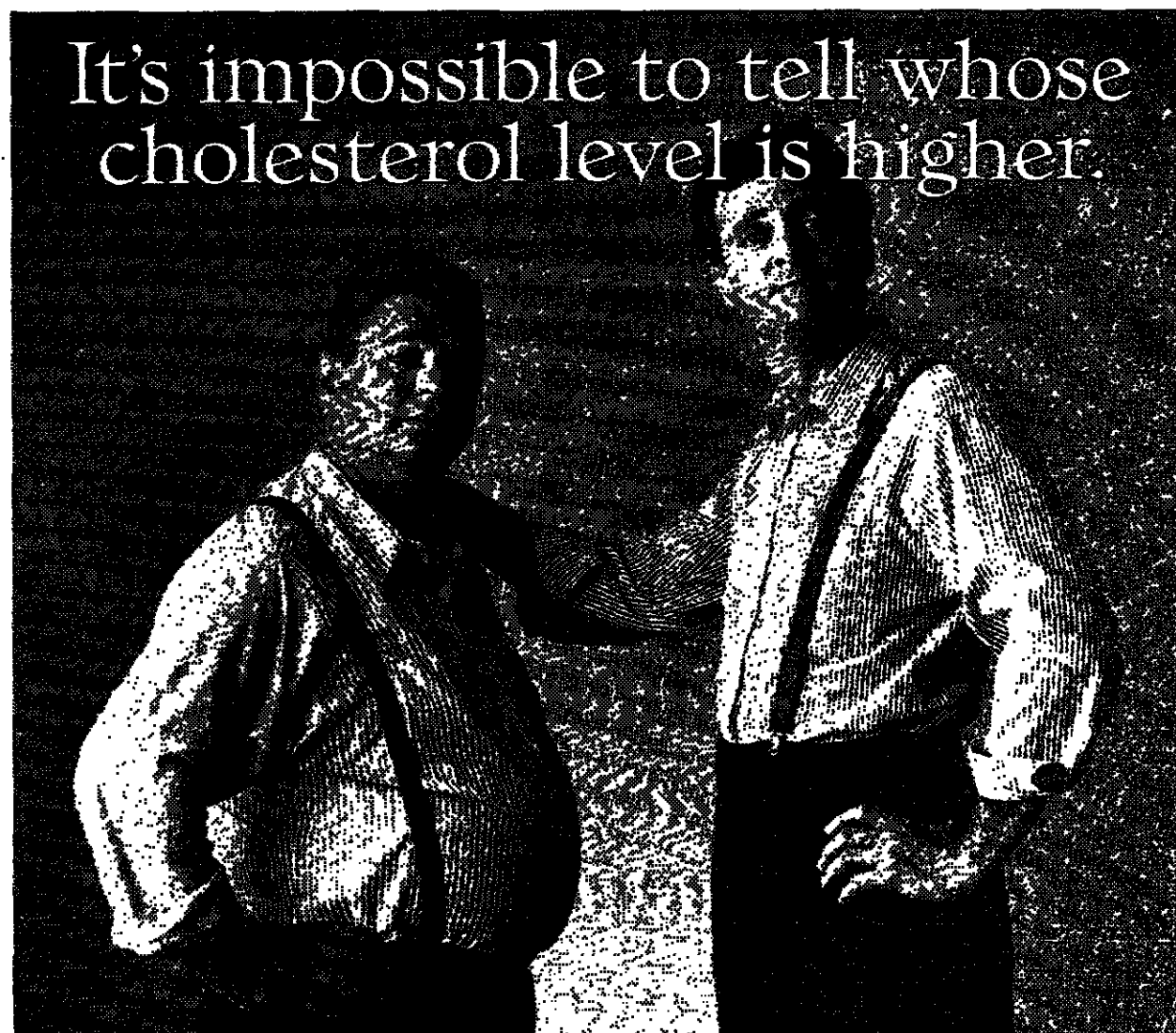
It is the element of randomisation which is the main cause for concern. Intellectually, a woman may understand the need for it, but that does not necessarily mean that, when it is her life at stake, she is willing to apply it to herself.

Breast cancer alone still kills nearly 16,000 women a year in this country, and affects one woman in 12 at some time. Nearly 30 per cent of women with operable breast cancer are dead within ten years.

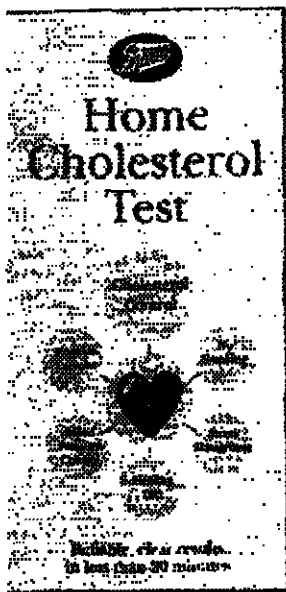
There is still a long way to go — and simply allowing Dr X at your local hospital, whom you see because you happen to have been allocated a Tuesday appointment, to give you his favoured treatment, is not the answer. You will be entering into just as much of a lottery as someone who knowingly takes part in a randomised trial.



AILEEN BALLANTYNE



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BUPA Health Screening

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THE TIMES D CHES PIONSHIP

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TRAVEL NEWS

Row brews over leasing of Slovenian jets

Harvey Elliott reports on a cost-cutting exercise that has brought objections from airlines and tour firms

Thousands of British package holiday-makers will find themselves flying on popular Mediterranean resorts this summer on Slovenian aircraft with pilots and cabin crews "borrowed" from the former Yugoslav republic.

The transport department has given permission for two aircraft, owned by Adria, the Slovenian airline, to operate out of Britain between now and October. The move has, however, angered charter airlines. They say the jets are being "dumped" at low cost on to the British market when nearly 1,000 British pilots are unemployed and dozens of jets are standing idle.

They also fear that, although aircraft should meet safety standards equivalent to those imposed on British-registered aircraft, they may not be subjected to the same checks routinely carried out by the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA). The two Slovenian jets — McDonnell Douglas MD82s — have been leased, together with their crews, by Southend-based British Air Ferries (BAF) and their 167 seats are being sold to tour operators by Goldcrest, an aircraft seat brokering company.

Nell Horsford, the managing director of BAF, says: "Following the collapse of Dan-Air, there is only one independent British charter airline left which is not owned by a big tour operator. To keep competitive, therefore, we need to use aircraft which are both bigger and yet can be afforded by the many small holiday companies that want to remain independent of the major airlines."

He admits that the jets are readily available because of the collapse of air travel in the former Yugoslav countries, caused by the war in Bosnia.

but insists that all the crews will speak English, that the aircraft are fully maintained in Austria and that the CAA has given its full approval for the leases.

Other airlines are increasingly critical of the deal which they say could lead to a lowering of safety standards and hit Britain's remaining airlines which are suffering from the recession.

They have appealed to the transport department and the CAA against the leasing in of such foreign aircraft, but so far

'We cannot allow our aviation industry to be destroyed'

without success. Bob Parker-Eaton, the deputy managing director of Briannia, says: "This is using a flag of convenience and is an opportunistic move to get low seat-rates from a country which is desperate for foreign currency. We are worried about the long-term effect if it becomes institutionalised and simply accepted as normal by the government."

There are hundreds of aircraft throughout the world of the former Eastern bloc which are doing nothing and which could be brought in to ever growing numbers, to the detriment of Britain's own industry. We saw the same thing happen to the merchant navy fleet and we cannot allow it to destroy our own aviation industry."

Even the small tour opera-

tors that would be expected to use the aircraft are objecting. Noel Josephides, of the Association of Independent Tour Operators, says: "The foreign crews earn half what British crews do and the aircraft do not have to be kept on the books all year round. It is just very unfair."

BAF is using a clause in the new European "open skies" aviation legislation which allows airlines to lease foreign aircraft "to meet the temporary needs of the air carrier or otherwise in exceptional circumstances".

Normally this is used to cover for jets which may suddenly have to be removed from a flying programme to undergo maintenance and especially to provide specialist freighters. Last year the CAA received 70 such applications, and so far this year it has received 53.

The CAA said that it was satisfied that the Adria aircraft would meet all British maintenance and safety regulations and that the maintenance carried out in Austria would be to a very high standard.

However, the airlines fear that the crews could be over-worked and that there would be no check on the operations to the same level as that which is automatically applied to British aircraft.

They also claim that Britain is almost alone in its liberal interpretation of the EC regulations and that similar applications to bring Eastern bloc aircraft into France and Spain, for example, have been firmly rejected.

At the end of the summer season the aircraft will be returned to Slovenia, together with their crews, while British charter airlines are forced to keep their own fleets of jets and crews, even though there is less work for them to do.

Compromise deal allows British Airways direct access to Taiwan

On a fast flight to Taipei

The first direct air link between Britain and Taiwan began this week, after delicate diplomatic footwork appeared to have succeeded in preventing Chinese loss of face.

Taiwan is not recognised as a separate nation by Britain, or most other big countries that trade with mainland China. It was therefore impossible to negotiate a bi-lateral, government-to-government air services agreement which would have enabled British Airways and the Taipei-based airline EVA Air to operate between the two countries.

After years of stalemate — and a tortuous journey for thousands of British businessmen to get to the rapidly expanding markets in Taipei — a compromise deal was thrashed out under which BA formed a subsidiary known as British Asia Airways (BAA) which then reached "a commercial arrangement" with its opposite numbers in the nationalist Chinese capital to allow daily flights to begin.

Lord Calthorpe, the aviation minister, had first to make a public announcement that the United Kingdom acknowledged that Taiwan was a province of the People's Republic of China which, he said, was "the sole legal government of China" and had full rights over any proposed air services.

He then had to confirm that the British government had had no contact with the Taiwanese authorities and that "no inter-governmental agreement or other arrangement of an official nature had been signed" between the two.

After long discussions with the Chinese it was finally agreed that the flights could begin "under a purely commercial arrangement between British Asia Airways and the Taipei Airlines Association".

The Chinese had insisted, however, that the aircraft flying the route could not display any "flags, insignia or livery with official connotations" and BA was forced to repaint the tail of one of its jumbo jets with Chinese characters.

Last week, therefore BAA took to the air as Britain's newest airline, flying twice a



Rewritten tail: the BAA jumbo flying the new route has been painted with Chinese characters because Peking insisted that the aircraft should not have BA insignia on it

week to Taiwan. BAA will fly on Mondays and Saturdays with a dedicated Boeing 747-400 from Heathrow returning on the 15-hour journey via Hong Kong on Tuesday and Sunday.

EVA Air is part of Evergreen Marine, the world's biggest container shipping company. Last week it too began flying three times a week between Taipei and Heathrow, using twin-engined Boeing 767-300

aircraft and stopping in Vienna and Bangkok on the way. In June, however, the airline will introduce its own Boeing 747-400, fitted out in four classes.

EVA Air will operate from Gatwick on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday and return on Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

EVA Air, one of Asia's fastest growing privately owned airlines, operates

scheduled flights within the Pacific region between Taipei and Manila, Jakarta, Singapore, Kuala Lumpur, Penang, Ho Chi Minh City and Bangkok.

It plans to begin operations to Seattle, New York and San Francisco later this year. Fares on both airlines are the same, with return economy tickets starting at £1,250.

HARVEY ELLIOTT

Boost for the capital

A campaign aims to make London an even bigger tourist magnet

London launched a campaign this week to attract more businessmen and holidaymakers and to bolster its image as one of the premier capitals of the world.

A new organisation called London Forum, financed by the private sector, will set up two subsidiaries to campaign on behalf of the capital.

London Visitors, headed by Sir Hugh Bidwell, the chairman of the London Tourist Board, will try to boost the capital's income by attracting more tourists from Britain and abroad. London inward, the second body, which will be led by Sir Colin Marshall, the British Airways chairman, will work to increase inward investment in the capital.

Michael Howard, the environment secretary, said: "London can be proud of its achievements. But the world does not stand still, and it will need to fight harder in world markets to maintain and increase its share of future opportunities."

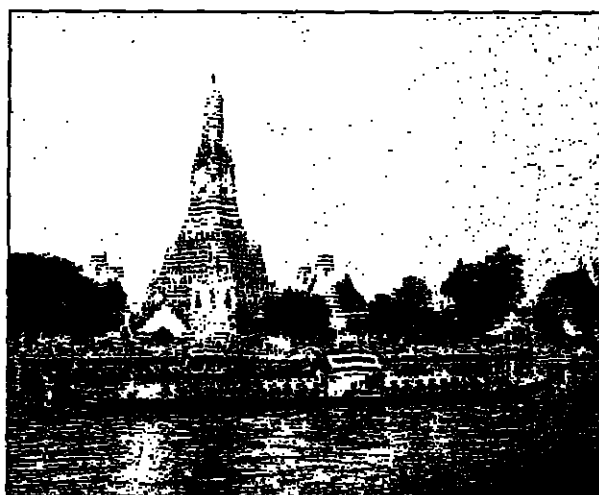
Sir Allen Sheppard, the chairman of the forum, stressed that the move should not be seen as an initiative against other parts of the United Kingdom and that the forum was 100 per cent supportive of Manchester's bid to stage the 2000 Olympics. London tourism brought in £5 billion a year and supported 250,000 jobs, he added.

Sir Hugh said: "If London, as a tourist centre, is presented with flair and imagination, the whole country benefits."

A record 18.1 million people came to the UK on business or holiday in 1992. However, Michael Medlicott, British Tourist Authority's chief executive, said many visitors were tending to avoid London, staying in less expensive hotels and spending less.

PETER VICTOR

RELAX AT LUXURY HOTELS ON THIS TWO-CENTRE ORIENTAL HOLIDAY



Magic lure of the East: whether you are in Bangkok (above left) or on the island of Bali the sights are captivating



Enjoy the exotic best of Bangkok and Bali

If you want to see the East at its natural, colourful finest but have difficulty choosing between a sight-seeing or beach holiday, go for the best of both worlds and take this two-centre holiday to Thailand and Bali.

The Times, in association with Silverbird Travel, is offering readers a true value-for-money holiday that includes staying three nights at the world-famous Oriental hotel in Bangkok, which overlooks the Chao Phraya river and is a longtime favourite of artists, writers and royalty, and seven nights at the luxurious beachside, villa-style Oberoi hotel on Bali, set in 15 hectares of tropical gardens.

While in Bangkok, you can enjoy the happy mix of a bustling, bargain-filled modern city with the delights of its ancient, golden-domed temples, in par-

THE TIMES READER SERVICE TRAVEL OFFER

ticular, the dazzling Wat Phra Kaeo, "The Temple of the Emerald Buddha", and Wat Pho, which houses the gigantic, gold-plated "Reclining Buddha". All this plus the capital's wealth of ancient culture, crafts, customs and exotic food.

On Bali, relaxation is the keynote, and you couldn't choose a more idyllic spot. The lavish spaciousness of the Oberoi, with its air-conditioned, Balinese-style janas and beautiful bathrooms opening on to private stone-walled gardens, has

everything to offer. You can swim (from the adjoining sandy beach), sunbathe, walk, play tennis, or tone up with a sauna and massage at the Health Club.

Like the idea? There are two departures from Heathrow by Thai Airways International: June 6 (returning on June 18) and June 13 (returning June 25). The cost per person is £1,139 (single supplement £489), with the option of an extra week in Bali at £299. Meals are not included because we find most people prefer to explore the many local restaurants serving a wide range of cuisines.

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Oriental hotel, Bangkok



The Oberoi hotel in Bali

Streaming into Montana

Robert Redford's latest film has spawned a fresh generation of fly-fishers

You've seen the film, now catch the fish. A mini-industry is building up around *A River Runs Through It*. The elegant film directed by Robert Redford.

Fly-fishing for trout in Montana takes up much of the footage, and cinemagoers have caught the bug. Anglers and non-anglers are turning up from all over the world to cast a fly into the sparkling waters of Montana, hoping to match the skills of Redford's heroes.

They have read reviews of the film calling it "an exquisite, lyrical epic destined to spread the gospel of fly-fishing even further than the adverts of J.R. Hartley". And British agencies specialising in fishing trips have been quick to plug into Montana fever.

Matthew Cohn, the Montana travel director, says: "Enquiries relating to the parts of the state that were shown in the film have gone up tremendously."

"Our fly-fishing season starts on the third Sunday in May, although you can fish



A great catch: Brad Pitt in *A River Runs Through It*

before that, but the rivers are still cloudy from the run-off from snow.

"The film has certainly been good for us, but then Montana was good for the film. We have some of the finest trout streams in North America and there are very few places on

earth where you can have the fishing experience that is available in Montana."

"This movie has reached out to a new generation of people who are discovering the joys of fly-fishing."

"We published 100,000 guides last year and expected

them to last us for two years, but we ran out in six months after the movie came out," Mr Cohn says.

"The UK has always been an excellent market for us but we can't afford to advertise in the way that this movie has done for us."

Rocky Mountain International is the UK office for Montana, Idaho, Wyoming, and South Dakota, and Patrick Richardson, the European director, says that after the success of *A River Runs Through It* there are at least four UK companies now seriously planning fly-fishing trips to Montana.

One of those companies is Go Fishing. Maggie Smith, the managing director, says it is operating group and individual trips to Montana. In October there is a group going out with the fly-fishing guru, Charles Jardine.

Redford was careful to point out that all fish caught for the film were returned unharmed. However, you do not have to be as conservationist as that. Check the local rules because some waters will let you take a few trout home for supper.

GARY LEE

Companies organising Montana fly-fishing are: American Adventure Fishing (0892 511894); Go Fishing (081-742 3700); Fishing Breaks (071-281 6737); Ranch America - Fishing Division (081-868 2910); Rocky Mountain International (0444 233234).

Shop until you fly

Britain's airports are being turned into some of the plushiest shopping malls in the UK as retailing takes over from aviation as the main source of their revenue, Harvey Elliott writes.

A further 12,000 square feet of retail facilities have been opened at Heathrow's Terminal 4 — enhancing still further the airport's image as one of the UK's most successful shopping centres.

Retailing is increasingly important to BAA (formerly the British Airports Authority). It brought in £291 million in the last financial year, or 32 per cent of its total revenue.

BAA is pushing for more

retailers to set up shop. It maintains that while high street retailers are finding life tough in the recession, airport retailers are getting more revenue per customer with some having sales of £3,000 per square foot annually — ten times the high street average.

Barry Gibson, the group retail director for BAA, says: "Our customers want to be able to spend time in a relaxed and unfurled retail environment offering a choice of goods from internationally famous shops. By responding to our customers' requests we are achieving our retail objective of providing a world-class shopping opportunity."

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MOTORAIL

More adventure, less risk

Efforts to regulate safety on activity holidays are gathering pace, but cost will be the issue, says Peter Victor

The English Tourist Board is pressing for licensing of activity centres following a series of accidents including the deaths of four teenagers last week in a canoeing mishap off the Dorset coast.

Prompted by the death of a car sales manager at one of the centres earlier this year, the tourist board held a meeting last week of representatives from the activity holiday industry's co-ordinating bodies, to discuss proposals for a national code of conduct and safety guidelines for people taking part in activities.

Ironically, the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents revealed yesterday it had already produced a set of basic regulations as a result of 18 months' work but these had not been put into use owing to a lack of funds.

Boys and girls got lost, some in only shorts and training shoes

Outdoor activity courses are increasingly popular for management training. Last February Geoffrey Ledgard, a car salesman in his forties from Birmingham, died of a heart attack while on a four-day hike in the Brecon Beacons. Powys, where the SAS does its training. He and four colleagues were heading for a 2,907 foot summit in freezing fog when he died.

In August 1991 the organisers of a children's expedition were criticised for allowing 13 girls and two boys to venture into dangerous country in the Grampians in Scotland, some of them wearing only shorts and training shoes.

The group, part of a 130-strong party camping in Tayside, became lost and were rescued after one of them suffered exposure and their leader sprained her ankle.

In 1986 activity holiday organisers faced criticism with the government being asked to consider basic guidelines for such holidays. More than ten years earlier, in 1975, *Holiday Which?*, the consumer magazine, called for a scheme to register activity centres.

Rospa is disappointed that after all this time the work it has already carried out has not made progress because of a lack of finance.

"As a charity we have to charge for our expertise and consultancy work," a spokesman said. Rospa had had "intermittent discussions" over the past two years and drawn up an outline set of guidelines "but haven't been able to put flesh on it".

A lot of the work has been based on the rules of the governing bodies of activities offered by the centres. Governing bodies for canoeing, rock climbing and shooting already have clear and stringent guidelines. Some activities — rambling, for example — have no ruling body and much more work is needed to draft sensible guidelines, Rospa says.

"We have to do a safety audit of these sports. We would consider what is done in the children's spare time. We would look at fire routes in the buildings where they stay — a lot of these centres are in very old buildings."

Rospa wrote to the British Activity Holiday Association (BAHA) last December saying that the ball was in its court. So far it has received no reply. "We're raring to go, given the backing. We want to make this something national that will have the clout needed. But we haven't yet gone into it in depth."

There are thought to be up to 2,000 outdoor centres. The BAHA, which was established in 1986, two years ago started inspecting the 120 centres run by its members.

The majority of centres are self-regulating. There were a reported 108 major injuries and four deaths of children at centres in Britain between 1988 and 1990. Six claims for negligence arising from adventure holidays have been lodged with the civil courts.

The Wales Tourist Board last year introduced inspections of Welsh centres. The



Uphill struggle: walkers are among the participants who need more safeguards

English board is now trying to organise something similar. It proposes a scheme which would monitor premises, equipment maintenance, accidents, health and safety, staff qualifications and insurance.

Last week's meeting was attended by representatives of the Association of Heads of Outdoor Centres, BAHA, the Cumbria Association of Residential Providers, Derbyshire Association of Residential Providers, Southern and Home Counties Association of Residential Education, and the South West Association of

Residential Providers. They are now consulting their members on what guidelines would be workable.

They will meet the English Tourist board again in the summer, in the hope that some sort of framework can be put together.

Isobel Coy, of the board, said the associations at the meeting represented a relatively small number of centres out of the total. "Activity holidays have grown in the last few years. To be of any use a regulatory scheme would have to carry out thorough inspections and be properly funded."

Even when regulations have

been drawn up, policing them will be complex. "We're talking about specialist inspectors for this type of operation," Ms Coy said. "Such a wide variety of people and activities are involved."

In the end, she added, it might require government legislation to bring all the centres into line.

Chris Reynard, the chairman of BAHA, said that following "gross misquoting" by other newspapers he would not comment.

British Activity Holidays Association 0932 252994; Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents 021-200 2461; English Tourist Board 081-846 9000.

Trips with children can be difficult and confused

Travel tears for tots



Babies: few facilities

Adults travelling with babies and small children are a forgotten group whose needs have not received serious attention, according to the Scottish Consumer Council (SCC).

A SCC study, *Going Places with Children*, looked at facilities at 52 railway stations, 15 bus stations, six airports and ten ferry terminals in Scotland. The survey found that while wheelchair-accessible lavatories are now standard, on public transport premises changing facilities for babies are still a rarity.

The lack of adequate facilities often means that parents are forced to choose between using those that are available and leaving their children temporarily unattended.

The survey's researchers discovered dirty, inaccessible lavatories which are too small for parent and child, hazardous gaps and steps when boarding transport, and endless stairs which are difficult to negotiate with baby buggies and heavy luggage.

None of the bus stations provided baby-changing facilities and in the seven railway stations which had them, they were for women only and tended to be badly lit, dirty and small. There was nowhere to change babies on any of the buses, trains or planes in the survey.

There were no lavatories at all in five bus stations and 13

of the railway stations. Many of the lavatories which were available were difficult to enter and too small. Most were unattended.

Only four of the bus stations had food and drink available, while only one railway station restaurant had high chairs.

All six airports surveyed had good baby-changing facilities and most had restaurants which were able to provide high chairs and special menus for children at reduced prices. Ardrossan's ferry terminal was one place that took provision for children seriously: it had a corner of the room set aside for children, with books and toys provided.

A range of recommendations have been made as a result of the survey. Doors into stations and terminals should be wide and easy to open, preferably automatic, and heated waiting rooms with adequate comfortable seating should be available at all stations and terminals. Baby changing facilities should be provided at all stations and be accessible to both male and female carers.

There should be special arrangements for children within lavatory blocks, including low sinks and towels, and where access to departure points is difficult, staff should be available to help. Separate areas for use by parents and children, such as special carriages on trains, should be available, and all but local services should make food and drink suitable for children available.

GILLIAN BOWDITCH

Holidays that are child's play

WHEN is a child not a child? When he or she is over two years old, judging by the fares charged on most scheduled flights, though some tour operators say that a child can be anything up to 21 years old to qualify for their reductions.

Tour operators and airlines admit that they cannot define exactly when a child becomes an adult and, therefore, has to pay full price.

Airtours says that a child can be up to 19. Owners Abroad generally regards 16 as the "grown up" age, although some resorts in Florida will accept 17, while other brands in the groups, such as Sovereign, have a cut-off point at 11. Thomson said it was impossible to be specific.

Confused? These are just a few of the range of offers now available:

■ SUNRIDER Holidays

FLYAWAYS

(0928 576471) has decided that anyone under the age of 21 is a "child" and so qualifies for a free package holiday when accompanied by two adults.

The offer is limited to one child per couple. The offer applies to all departures up to June 14. A family of three can have a ten-day holiday in Estartit on the Costa Brava for a total of £268.

■ PREMIER Holidays (0223 311103) offers children under 11 up to 50 per cent reductions at selected hotels in Thailand and Malaysia when accompanied by two fare-paying adults. Beach holidays to Malaysia are offered for £199 per child, inclusive of flights, transfers, and accommodation in a separate room to parents. They also offer a seven-night fly-drive holiday

from Singapore with non-stop scheduled flights every Saturday from £475.

■ PARENTS can take up to four children under 14 on a camping holiday completely free of charge at selected sites in France, when booking before May 7 with Canavass Holidays (0383 621000). Prices start from £85 for a family for 14 nights' accommodation in a ready-erected, three-compartment tent. This price is inclusive of ferry crossing from Ramsgate to Dunkirk. All sites have a children's club.

■ LONGSHOT Golf Holidays (0730 268621) offers a seven-night stay at the Penina Golf Hotel on the Algarve for £539 per person. This price includes flights from Heathrow, car hire and golf. Children under 12 are offered free accommodation when sharing a family room with their parents.

na

Fast link to French trains

Today, French Railways' Rail Shop in London opens its direct link to the new Socrate computerised reservations system introduced by SNCF, the French state railway.

The date, April Fools' day, may be appropriate. Socrate, named after the Greek philosopher, has been making fools of many customers for France's 190mph TGV trains. Frustrated queues at France's main-line stations will welcome the advent of the direct computer link. At present many station ticket counters in Paris and other principal cities have notices apologising to intending travellers for the inconvenience and delays caused while staff wrestle with Socrate.

The system, which cost Fr2 billion (£240 million) to install, covers all TGV, main-line and international destinations, and co-ordinates a complicated TGV fare system which combines a standard distance



Ready for the off: TGV high-speed trains in a French siding

tariff with an obligatory and variable reservation fee, making travel more expensive at peak times.

"There have been problems with the software," says Peter Mills of SNCF, "and, although there have been training courses held to familiarise staff with the system, not all of them have quite got the hang

of it yet. But when it shakes down it will be very efficient in planning itineraries, at filling spaces on trains where they are available, and adding on ancillary services such as hotel bookings, car hire and so on."

At present, though, there can be troublesome delays arising from rather simpler tasks, such as getting a ticket

or seat reservation changed, or money refunded.

SNCF had to move over to a high-capacity system," Mr Mills says, "because by May 23, when the TGV service linking Lille and Paris opens, more than half of all main-line journeys in France will be by TGV, for which seat reservation is compulsory. Eventually, compulsory seat reservation will be necessary for other express services."

SNCF is sure its staff will be up to Socrate's abilities well before the opening of the Channel tunnel, when the high-speed Eurostar link will cover the 310 miles between London and Paris in just three hours and 15 minutes.

ROBIN YOUNG

● The Rail Shop, French Railways House, 179 Piccadilly, London, W1V 0BA (071-495 4433 for bookings or 0891 515477 for information only). Socrate is also contactable via International Business Travel, (071-867 8016).

Bumper Motor Insurance Offer.

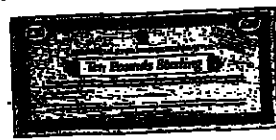


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The Prize Draw will be held on 16th December 1993. The winner will be notified by Christmas Eve 1993 and their name and county details obtainable thereafter. Full prize draw details on request.

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 - 4) Your car should be a normal family model (not high performance or sports).
 - 5) It should be owned and registered by you and kept at the address supplied on the coupon.
 - 6) All drivers should be free from any infirmity which could impair their driving.

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First Name(s)

Address

Postcode

Tel No. (day)

(eve)

Occupation

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Model

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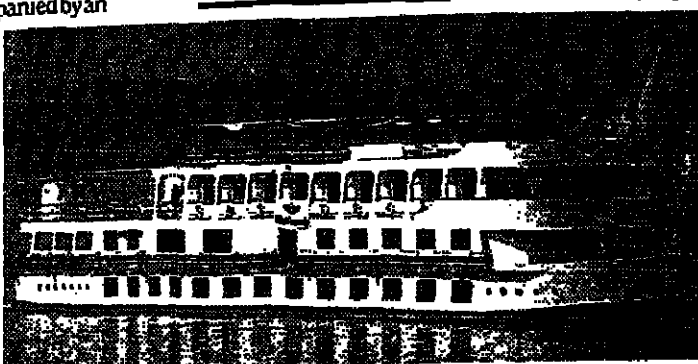
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IN OPEN COURT

The Scott enquiry must make a clean sweep

Lord Justice Scott has been charged with the investigation of a massive breach of public trust. The case against ministers and civil servants is that they either acquiesced in or connived at breaches of the government's declared policy of banning lethal exports to Iraq, laid down in 1984; that they deceived Parliament as to the government's actual policy; and, finally, that they invoked official secrecy to conceal the deception, even when the non-disclosure of evidence could have led to serious miscarriages of justice.

The attorney-general foolishly recommended last November that Lord Justice Scott should focus on the operation of export licensing rules. Since that gaffe the government has been anxious to stress its co-operative intentions. Nevertheless there has been criticism of the range of Lord Justice Scott's investigation; the adequacy of his powers to uncover the whole truth under the rules of a non-statutory enquiry, which cannot subpoena witnesses or examine them on oath; and the degree to which official secrecy laws would inhibit public disclosure.

Lord Justice Scott did much yesterday to reassure sceptics. He made clear that his principal interest was in what the government knew about breaches of the guidelines and how far ministers were themselves involved. He will also place proper emphasis on the issuing by ministers of public immunity certificates in the Matrix Churchill case, a question which goes to the heart of the uses and abuses of official secrecy. Most of the evidence, he said, was to be found in documents and written statements. But he intends the oral hearings that begin next month to be as full and as public as possible, and has obtained important undertakings from the Cabinet Office to that end.

In all such enquiries, a balance must be struck between getting at the truth, identifying criminal liability and safeguarding national security. To ensure the fullest possible disclosure, the Official Secrets Act has been waived for the purpose of the enquiry. Witnesses will be given the guar-

antee that no evidence will be used in any subsequent criminal prosecutions. All hearings will be in public unless Lord Justice Scott is persuaded by a witness that public disclosure "would cause serious injury to the interests of the nation"; and he has obtained from the Cabinet Office assurances that such requests will be "sparingly" made.

The judge has been promised that if any witnesses refuse to testify despite these pledges of immunity, or if he is unsatisfied that they are telling the whole truth, he can ask the prime minister to put the enquiry on a statutory basis under the 1921 tribunals act. The fact that the oral hearings will take place while Parliament is still sitting is an added safeguard: ministers will be pressed on their testimony, under the protection of parliamentary privilege.

The question that remains is whether witnesses have, for the sake of openness, been made too immune from penalty. The investigation of crime, Lord Justice Scott states, is for the police or other investigative authorities: his interest lies solely in "possible government complicity". But four ministers must explain whether they abused the "public interest" to avoid embarrassing disclosures; and a depressingly long list, including John Major, will be called on to say whether they deceived Parliament, and if so, why. Complicity in breaching or "bending" the guidelines would amount to having helped to arm Iraq with chemical, biological and even nuclear weapons — a course of action dangerous in itself and immensely damaging to Britain's standing in the strategically vital business of curbing the spread of such weapons.

Lord Justice Scott's view is that sunshine is the best disinfectant; his approach may also be the best way to prevent future covert breaches of arms embargos. That is his justification. But none who are found guilty must be allowed to put the case behind them with a mere *mea culpa*. Justice must not only be seen to be done. Action must follow the verdict.

MIRROR OF THE WORLD

Chess can play miniature metaphor for a better state of things

Chess is the game of kings. Its name proclaims it: the old Persian-Arabic *shah mat*, "the king is dead", eventually produced the checkmate. But chess is also the king of games and a metaphor for the world outside the chequered board: war without blood, diplomacy without the compromises, and, despite its sometimes peevish internal manoeuvrings, politics without the rhetoric. The world championship between Gary Kasparov and Nigel Short in London in September promises to be both epic contest and contemporary parable.

As a game this will be a thrilling drama between the two best players in the world, with contrasting styles and psychologies, at the height of their powers. The level of play will be one that ordinary mortals follow in normal times only through a glass darkly. But in September their glass will include a television and a telephone linked to a computer, thanks to plans arranged by *The Times* and its fellow sponsor, Teleworld, millions of international enthusiasts will be able to try to guess the next moves.

As a metaphor, the chess struggles of Short and Kasparov mirror the real world, as chess always has. The two players' breakthrough from the international chess federation, Fide, is a reflection of the end of the Cold War and the rise of individualism, freedom and democracy against restrictive ideology and central planning.

The power of the game as an image may recall the days, more than 300 years ago, when Thomas Middleton produced his famous political play, *A Game at Chess*. In 1624 Middleton took the English and Spanish magnates concerned in the so-

called "Spanish marriage affair" and thinly disguised them as the White Knight, the Black King, and so on. It proved as dangerous an idea as any in the chess battles of today. The Spanish ambassador protested, the play was stopped, and dramatist and actors were summoned to answer for it.

For the past generation, since the beginning of the Cold War, Fide has held world chess in a zigzag, a chess position in which any move makes things worse. It has restricted where it should have been spreading the glory of the game. For more than 20 years, the world championships were always held in Moscow, whereas before the war they were shared around several cities. Bobby Fischer was defaulted and stripped of his title for asking for changes in the rules that were granted without a murmur two years later, when a Soviet champion wanted them. In 1985 Florencio Campomanes stopped Kasparov's first world challenge against Anatoly Karpov at a crucial point, after Kasparov had won several games in a row, claiming that the players were tired.

The dash for freedom by Kasparov and Short will encourage millions around the world to follow and play the game of kings and commoners. Chess can be ludic sublimation for their aggression and boredom. Nobody yet said "checkmate" in tones that did not sound to the opposition bitter, boastful and aggressive. But nobody is harmed. Chess champions can become heroes, as exemplars in their cerebral sport as tennis and golf players, who show that a game can be hard but sporting. Chess will continue to be the metaphor on a board for a more hopeful and rational world.

CAVEAT VENDOR

Customers are not the fools they were thought to be

British consumers, once considered the most passive in the western world, seem to have found their feet. For too long have they been pictured by their more rapacious cousins on the Continent and particularly in North America, as a defeatist army of shuffling queue-fodder, pathetically grateful for the minimal service handed out to them — unlikely to make a fuss even when their basic rights as purchasers were denied. As Hoover has discovered to its cost, the British customer has not only become a dedicated follower of bargain offers, but will persevere through the most deliberately off-putting barrage of tedious restrictions in order to claim his reward. Having sighted the goal, followed the instructions, kept to the limiting conditions and submitted the necessary documentation, he will then demand that the promise made to him be kept.

Keeping its promises to customers is about to cost Hoover anything from twenty to forty million pounds, depending on which estimates you accept. Hoover's American parent company, Maytag, has sent a "task force" from the mother country to sort out the chaos from the financial devastation left in the wake of what now looks like the most foolhardy public relations exercise in the history of retailing. Free flights to Europe or America which could have had a value of up to £500 were being offered as incentives to buy products which were themselves priced as low as £100.

Somehow, the British management seemed not to have noticed the simple logical flaw: when a universal free offer (as opposed to a single prize) has a cash value greater than the product to which it is attached, it is very likely to end up losing the company money. But even given this fundamental failure of arithmetic, the losses were spectacular. The company, it seemed, never expected its wildly generous overture to be followed up with such enthusiasm. Instead of simply being led on by the superficial attractiveness of the offer, only to be put off by the pettifoggish details of the small print, by the pettifoggish details of the small print, by more than 200,000 people tenaciously went through the correct procedure.

This is a cautionary tale for marketing managers who assume, as Hoover's seem to have done, that people will be daunted by an obstacle course of bureaucracy and circuitous regulations. A nation which spends much of its time wrestling with bureaucrats and enforcers of regulations in the ordinary course of daily life, is not about to be deflected from valuable booty by laborious form-filling. Indeed, modern Britain may have produced a generation of experts in form-filling and the deciphering of perverse official stipulations. More cheerfully, it now has a population more aware of its rights as buyers of products and services — and takers-up of special offers. Management had better beware. The British are not the push-overs they once were.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

Post Office sell-off called in question

From Mr Alan Johnson and Mr Tony Young

Sir, The postal unions doubt that backbenchers will be as keen as ministerial sources believe to support the latest plans to split the Post Office into two units — letters and counters services — and to sell these separately (report, March 30).

Backbenchers should bear in mind that despite the fact that the counters business returns an overall profit, a substantial number of its 20,000 outlets are dependent upon cross-subsidisation. This is particularly the case in rural constituencies, where the Post Office provides many essential local services.

The postal unions have made it abundantly clear to the Department of Trade and Industry that if the Post Office is to continue to provide one of the cheapest and most cost-effective postal services in Europe and secure future advantages as a global business, then it requires greater autonomy over its financial decisions.

Nevertheless, we have consistently argued that privatising the Post Office is not the best method of achieving these objectives. Next-day postal delivery is the best in Europe and the British Post Office is seen by its overseas counterparts as one of the most efficient in Europe, whilst returning a profit and remaining subsidy-free over the past 16 years. It is not only those working in the postal industry who believe that privatisation is not the means by which to improve a successful business that works extremely well. A MORI poll, sponsored by the postal unions and published in December 1992, found that 64 per cent of the public oppose privatisation of the Post Office.

The government may view with relish the prospect of raising £2 billion from privatisation, but it should remember that it would lose the £100 million contribution that the Post Office has made each year to the Treasury since the late 1970s.

Yours faithfully,
ALAN JOHNSON
(General Secretary (designate),
Union of Communication Workers),
TONY YOUNG
(General Secretary,
National Communications Union,
Greystoke House,
150 Brunswick Road, Ealing, W5,
March 30.

From Mr Alban Morgan

Sir, Your report today suggests that the countryside network of sub-post offices is likely to be safeguarded under the government's plan.

This assurance, it would seem, is not shared by the ministry which provides the majority of business for Post Office Counters, the Department of Social Security. I understand that Peter Lilley's ministers are actively engaged in an endeavour to divert DSS benefit payments away from sub-post office counters by direct transfer to banks and building societies.

This gradual erosion of counter work can only lead to a reduction in the number of sub-post offices and a limited choice, or no choice at all, for pensioners.

Mr Heseltine, president of the Board of Trade, may give another of his assurances; but in doing so it would seem that he has ignored Mr Lilley, the majority trade provider.

Yours sincerely,

ALBAN MORGAN
(Retired PO worker),
15 Buckingham Avenue,
Shoreham, West Sussex,
March 30.

A Trollope wager

From the Chairman of the Trollope Society

Sir, That Lord Healey can be disarmingly mischievous is well known. But I can assure him no one who has spoken personally to John Major on the subject of Anthony Trollope could possibly doubt that his enthusiasm is longstanding, deep, and absolutely genuine (Diary, March 27).

In October of last year, in an interview arranged with Sebastian Faulks to publicise his book *My Secret Planet*, Lord Healey was quoted as saying that Trollope was "not humanly interesting". This idea was so preposterous that I was moved to write to him to make a wager.

I sent him a copy of the Trollope Society edition of *Can You Forgive Her?* and suggested that he read, if not the whole, at least chapters 49 and 51. If, after that, he still felt able to maintain his strange idea of Trollope's deficiencies, I promised to send him a case of champagne (Ayala, of course).

If reading those chapters persuaded him of the error of his views, I suggested that he recanted publicly at a Trollope Society dinner.

When I met him at a party some weeks later, he confessed genially that he had not had time as yet to read the book. I am sure he will, as he says in your diary item, politicians should read more books. The wager stands.

Yours sincerely,
JOHN LETTS,
Chairman, The Trollope Society,
9A North Street, SW4,
March 29.

Business letters, page 27
Sports letters, page 39

April 1 seen as a day of anomalies

From the General Secretary of the Leonard Cheshire Foundation

Sir, From April 1, a date not known for its wisdom, council tax is imposed directly or indirectly on the majority of those who live in or own accommodation. This is now something we have become familiar with. Subject to some notable exceptions, it seems to be a great deal more equitable than the poll tax, whose passing represents a victory of common sense.

Little attention, though, has been given to the extraordinary anomaly by which council tax has been imposed on so-called "dwellings" owned by charities. None but the most oblique reference was made to this fundamental departure in principle when the Local Government Finance Act 1992 passed through Parliament a year ago. Therefore few MPs were aware that they voted for a tax on property from which charities would not get relief in respect of their residential homes.

When the transitional relief ceases in a couple of years the cost to charities like our own will be considerable, but, potentially far worse, the principle of exempting charities and of granting partial or total relief will have been breached for the first time.

You published a letter of mine about this last year (November 5) and in due course this led to correspondence and a meeting with a junior minister. Representations continue. Meanwhile a group of vulnerable people, the elderly especially but also the disabled, will have to dig deep into their own pockets because the charities concerned will not be able to pay the tax for them.

The remedy is simple: the Secretary of State has the power under section four of the act to exempt classes of property. Why even now does he not do so?

Yours truly,
SIMON HARDWICK,
General Secretary,
The Leonard Cheshire Foundation,
26-29 Maunsell Street, SW1,
March 30.

From Mr D. L. Crosby

Sir, From April 1 the working hours of junior hospital doctors will be reduced to a maximum of 83 contracted hours each week. This must still seem excessive to most contemporary workers. Nevertheless, it is a

Fiascos in the making?

From the Chairman of the Association of Metropolitan Authorities

Sir, It would be wrong to allow this April Fool's day to pass without celebrating the obscenity of the poll tax, introduced on this most appropriate of days in 1990. Sadly, its spectre remains to haunt us as local authorities labour at the thankless task of trying to collect its arrears.

Can we learn from this fiasco? Surely the major lesson is that central government must not unilaterally impose doctrinally-driven solutions on local government without contemplating their practical consequences.

Ministers for the environment have learnt this lesson the hard way and the implementation of the council tax (despite its flaws) has been greatly eased by close consultation with the local authority associations.

The lesson is still to be learnt by the ministers for education, where a confusion of responsibilities will be created by the present education bill in spite of the sensible advice of the local education authorities.

It is not yet too late for the government to draw back from its latest lurch into centralisation. In the spirit of partnership practised by the prime minister, local authorities hope it will do so.

Yours sincerely,
JEREMY BEECHAM,
Chairman, Association of Metropolitan Authorities,
35 Great Smith Street,
Westminster, SW1,
March 31.

Rival counties

From Mr J. J. Phillips

Sir, In his Political Sketch of March 25 Matthew Parris dwelt at length upon one of his favourite subjects: Geoffrey Dickens, the MP for Littleborough and Saddleworth. In that article the word "Yorkshire" was used, quite erroneously, three times in reference to the great man.

It should be clearly known to Mr Parris that Littleborough and Saddleworth are both in Lancashire, and that such errors of fact are quite likely to result in renewed hostilities between the two counties.

Although Yorkshire, on recent form, might be considered minor compared to Lancashire in the county cricket stakes, it is certainly major league in the geographic context, and it ill behoves your sketch writer to poach solid Lancashire stock in such a manner.

Perhaps when he next writes of his champion, as he surely will again soon, he will remedy the matter and use the correct geographical adjective and noun.

Yours faithfully,
JONATHAN PHILLIPS,
House IV, HM Prison Featherstone,
New Road,
Wolverhampton, West Midlands,
March 26.

significant reduction on previous requirements.

One might have expected this historic landmark to be accompanied by some outbreaks of conviviality. Sadly, the reverse is true and it is difficult to find any who are pleased with the consequences.

Though their hours are reduced the junior doctors find that they have to work more intensively and are earning somewhat less. In addition, their training and social activities are disrupted by the constraints of shift systems. Their consultants, wrongly blamed for the new arrangements, are also displeased at breaks in team management that result from cross-over arrangements by doctors who are unfamiliar with the day-to-day care of their patients.

Continuity of care is therefore prejudiced, and patients are increasingly confronted by a bewildering array of duty doctors when difficulties arise. The government, having spent additional amounts of taxpayers' money in brokering the new arrangements, might have expected some credit, but they seem unlikely to receive it.

There is therefore general dissatisfaction, probably compounded by reduced standards of patient care. Perhaps we should all try again.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID CROSBY
(Consultant surgeon),
University Hospital of Wales,
Heath Park, Cardiff,
March 30.

From the Chief Executive of Arthritis Care

Sir, On the very day when social services are meant to be implementing new packages of care, most departments are having to make cuts. Some social work staff are being advised not to record needs which they do not have resources to meet. Home helps are disappearing in many parts of the country.

Many people with arthritis fear their chances of living independently in the community may actually be reduced after April 1.

Yours faithfully,
R. E. GUTCH,
Chief Executive,
Arthritis Care,
18 Stephenson Way, NW1,
March 30.

From the Chairman of the Council of Local Education Authorities

Sir, From April 1 the colleges of further education move away from local authority support and responsibility to become incorporated institutions funded and planned by central government through a new funding council. The local education authorities wish the colleges well in the new era and hope that they will go from strength to strength.

These good wishes, however, are tinged with not a little regret and sadness. With regret, because we believe that further-education colleges, as local institutions serving local communities, should be firmly anchored in the system of local accountability secured through local education authorities, while having full responsibility for running their own day-to-day affairs. In our view everything that the new system will achieve could have been — and maybe in the future will be — delivered within the local authority framework.

With sadness, because over the years local education authorities have made a major contribution to the work of the further-education service, which has gone conspicuously unacknowledged as the new arrangements have been formulated. Local government is proud of its achievements in further education and it is right that this should be placed on the record.

Yours faithfully,
J. F. DONALDSON,
Chairman, Council of Local Education Authorities,
Eaton House,
66a Eaton Square, SW1,
March 31.

Little parcels

From Mrs Mary Ashworth

Sir, If my husband, a very compact medical man, were to merit an obituary in your excellent newspaper perhaps the balance could be redressed somewhat if the final few words could read: "But he is survived by a very large wife" (letters, March 29, 30).

Yours faithfully,
MARY ASHWORTH,
Chandlers House, Low Green,
Catterick Village,
Richmond, Yorkshire,
March 30.

From Mr Michael Pollard

Sir, When Judge Stephens (letter, March 29) no longer plays his part with wise saws and modern instances, are obituarists of the time to interpret the Bard's "sans everything" literally and assume his 5ft 6in does not include his wig?

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL POLLARD,
2 Victoria Park Road,
Exeter, Devon.

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 071-782 5046.

Children punished by use of the cane

From Mr A. Graham Hellier

Sir, After long experience as a housemaster and senior master in a highly regarded comprehensive school, I welcome the decision by the European Court of Human Rights not to veto corporal punishment in independent schools (report and leading article, March 26).

We live in a society marked by growing indiscipline where the penalties for wrongdoing have been increasingly discarded. Normal adolescent males will continue to challenge the authority of a school and there needs to be a variety of ways in which the boundaries of acceptable behaviour can be marked.

Corporal punishment does not betray a failure of the school's disciplinary methods but the failure, in a minority of cases, of more positive measures. Such failures are inevitable and negative constraints such as corporal punishment have to be used.

It is time to restore the limited use of "reasonable chastisement" in any school where parents wish it.

Yours sincerely,
A. GRAHAM HELLIER,
Monmarsh End,
Marden, Hereford,
March 28.

From Mr John Morris

Sir, The overwhelming majority of independent preparatory schools will agree with your suggestion that caning children cannot be justified.

When corporal punishment was abolished in maintained schools in 1987 my association made it clear that it would not support its use in our 560 members' schools. In any case, most of them had already abandoned it voluntarily. Thankfully the use of corporal punishment in prep schools is now a thing of the past.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN MORRIS
(General Secretary),
Incorporated Association of Preparatory Schools,
11 Waterloo Place,
Leamington Spa, Warwickshire,
March 26.

From Mr G. F. Main

Sir, Since state schools lost the use of the cane the number of suspensions and expulsions has soared, being the only alternatives for serious cases of indiscipline. Should not opponents of the cane consider the resultant loss of dignity and blurring of careers?

Yours faithfully,
G. F. MAIN
(Vice-Principal),
The Old Grammar School,
High Street, Lewes, Sussex.

From District Judge P. G. Hebbert

Sir, I am now a grandfather and no longer involved in the day-to-day business of discipline for children, so I view the coming controversy with some detachment.

I wonder, however, whether your leader writer has discovered any means of punishing, or even reprimanding, children or anyone else without injuring their dignity.

I remain, Sir, your obedient servant,
PHILIP HEBBERT,
2 Manley Road, Ben Rhydding,
Ilkley, West Yorkshire,
March 28.

Orkney child care

From Mrs K. W. Kemp

Sir, Ray Clancy's article (March 22) makes harrowing reading. It reveals details of how children in care were ill-treated under the Scottish child-care system.

Disturbing revelations are also contained in the "Report on the Forgotten Children of Orkney" published in February by the Orkney Seven Action Group, which highlights the plight of several children who remain in care. Their case has been described as a scandal worse than that of the nine other children subsequently investigated by Lord Clyde.

More than ever, child care in Orkney warrants immediate and thorough investigation in relation to this case. It is imperative that the several key professionals who hold confidential information vital to a true understanding of the circumstances of these children be given the opportunity to divulge it. Only then will justice have been done to all the children concerned.

Yours faithfully,
KATHERINE KEMP
(Reporter, Orkney children's panel, 1977-91),
Kilmardenny, Berstane Road,
Kirkwall, Orkney.

Currency collapse

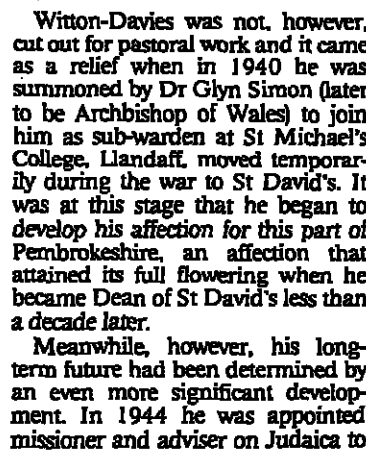
From Mr T. H. Lewis

Sir, I have just received a fax from a contact in the Commonwealth of Independent States that they kindly translated into English. In this there are details of various costs, all shown in the local currency which they have called the "ruble". I know that their currency is in some disarray but this is surely going too far.

Yours faithfully,
TERRY LEWIS,
19 Greenhill Way,
Haywards Heath, Sussex,
March 26.

THE VEN CARLYLE WITTON-DAVIES

He had already joined the Church in Wales during his final year at Bangor, having abandoned his original intention of following his father into the Baptist ministry. With the active encouragement of one of his tutors he then went to read Theology at Exeter College, Oxford, where—to his disappointment—he obtained only a second class degree. By now, however, his path was set. He had enrolled as an ordinand at Cuddesdon while still an undergraduate at Exeter and in 1937, the same year that he graduated, was ordained deacon, serving his title at Buckley in Flintshire.



Oxford was a much more fraught enterprise from the start. For one thing, Wotton-Davies, who had developed some autocratic tendencies, was — as merely one member of a cathedral chapter — no longer master in his own house; nor, as an archdeacon, was he perhaps cast by nature to be merely an *oculus episcopi* — he would much rather have been a bishop himself. He had

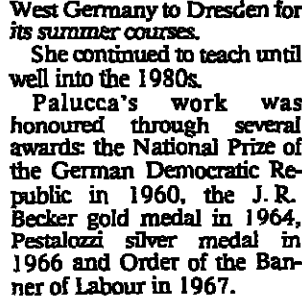
He served for 21 years as chairman of the Council of Christians and Jews, was twice a member of the Church Assembly and the General Synod and, at the nomination of Dr. R. C. Zaehner, was on the Archbishop's Commission on Crown Appointments between 1962 and 1964. Such preoccupations were not devoid, partially responsible for his never making a contribution to scholarship commensurate with his learning. He translated two of Martin Buber's works, *Hasidism* (1948) and *The Prophetic Faith* (1949) and was also the author of an illustrated book on the biblical exegesis of Israel, *Journey of a Lifetime* (1962).

He married in 1945 a clergyman's daughter Mary Rees and, in true Troilopian spirit, they had three sons and four daughters.

By then Diebenkorn had acquired a reputation as one of the foremost abstract expressionist painters of his generation. His paintings owed something to those of Clyfford Still and Mark Rothko, both of whom he had met when they worked in the San Francisco Bay Area. Despite a certain East Coast distrust of West Coast painting, Diebenkorn's cool, sensitively coloured paintings became accepted as essentially "New York School".

He himself found the polarity between representation and abstraction one of the most interesting in art, and on the occasion of his first major showing in Britain at the Whitechapel Gallery in 1991, it was this open attitude to painting, and his successes in both styles which particularly interested art students searching for their own identity.

Palucca joined the Wigman Studio at the age of 18 and was accepted as a member of Wigman's group three years later. Her first recital of her own solos followed only a year after that, and by the following year, 1925, aged 23, she had her own school in Dresden and soon began using her pupils as a supporting group for her frequent performances. Her work was quickly ad-



There he joined the staff of the Ministry of Education, Science and Culture. After the war, Japan was to become his second home. After eventually taking early retirement from the diplomatic service in 1978, he spent restless two years in this country, working as a public relations officer in industry, then decided to re-settle in Japan.

A brilliant linguist, Greenwood was also fluent in Thai, as well as French and Italian, and loved Thailand perhaps even more than Japan. He travelled extensively throughout the region and was on holiday in Bangkok when he died.

A tall, lean man, Greenwood was a close friend of the poet D.J. Enright, whom he first met in Japan some 40 years ago. He contributed


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After the Mission had proceeded about four miles one of the Libyan generals with

According to our well-defined policy, every effort was made in clearing the intrenchments and sangars to avoid a resort to force, and the restraint of the 23rd Pioneers and the Gurkhas in moving the Tibetans from the fortifications without violence deserves the highest praise. But in view of the advance in the language adopted by the Tibetans it was

of the growing influence of Russia

...the high way for the purpose of our advance, trouble was caused by the leading officials, who encouraged the soldiers to resist when an attempt was made to take the weapons from them. Several men, acting apparently as leaders, fired their matchlocks pointing them at the ring of soldiers guarding the entrance. A sudden attack with swords, spears and bows was the result. The situation was critical for

when Brigadier-General Macdonald's force advanced to Guru further resistance was made.

whose influence and violent hostility a great part of the present difficulty is due.

Though the incident is to be regretted, it is probable that the short, sharp lesson now taught to the Tibetans will save many hundred lives eventually and make Tibet understand that procrastination is no longer useful and that we are in earnest.

Our casualties amount to ten or 13. The loss of the Tibetans was considerable; it is estimated at 400 or 500 . . .

Information supplied by Post Office

TRINER NEWSPAPERS LIMITED, 1993. Published and printed by Triner Newspapers Ltd at 1 Virginia Road, London N1 9XN, telephone 071-782 5000 and at Knowsley Park Industrial Estate, Killing Road, Escot, Merseyside, L34 9HY, telephone 051-646 2000. Thursday, April 1, 1993. Registered as a newspaper at the Post Office.

IL 1 1993

it is like to be down their vision in a poignant documentary *Our* Page 43

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The Princess of Wales backs Child Safety Week

ARTS 31-33

Hal Prince talks to Valerie Grove

SPORT 39-44

O'Gorman makes strides towards equality in racing

ACCOUNTANCY ON THURSDAYS Page 29

THE TIMES

2

THURSDAY APRIL 1 1993

BUSINESS TODAY

DOUBLE VISION



A fall in the government levy and higher advertising revenue helped Central TV nearly double its profits last year Page 25, *Tempos* 27

SINGLE WIN

The global war against inflation has ended in victory, writes Anatole Kaletsky, although many in the City will disagree Page 27

MULTI RESCUE



BM Group, the engineering and distribution conglomerate, is to axe 600 jobs and embark on a plan to cut debts Page 25

THE POUND

US \$ 1.5062 (+0.0100)
German mark 2.4254 (+0.0023)
Exchange index 79.4 (+0.1)
Bank of England official close (4pm)

STOCK MARKET

FT-SE 100 2678.7 (+17.7)
Dow Jones 3461.88 (+4.59)
Nikkei Avg. 18591.45 (+371.71)

INTEREST RATES

London Bank Base 6%
3-month Interbank 5 1/8%
US Federal Funds 3 1/4%
3-month Treas Bills 2.89-2.87%
Currency 6.91%

CURRENCIES

New York: London: 1.5062
S-D 1.5088* C\$ 1.5065
S-D 1.8090* E-D 2.4254
S-D 1.4910* S-W 2.2482
S-F 5.4670* C-F 8.2820
S-Yen 114.90* E-Yen 173.40
E-SDR 1.0744 E-EUR 1.2519
London Forex market close

GOLD

London Fixing (\$): PM 337.80
AM 336.90
Close 337.90-338.30
New York: 336.95-337.45*

RETAIL PRICES

RPI 138.8 February (1.8%)
* Denotes midday trading price



Pulling up the drawbridge: John Baird, Queens Moat chairman, asked for a halt in share trading "pending clarification of its financial position"

Tax move threatens oil jobs

By ROSS TIEMAN INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

UP TO 10,000 jobs could be lost in the oil industry because of Budget changes in the North Sea tax regime, according to Treasury calculations. Michael Heseltine, trade secretary, and Tim Eggar, energy minister, were warned of the changes but apparently were reassured that while exploration activity would fall, production would be encouraged, with a broadly neutral effect.

Despite criticism from exploration companies, and the Treasury's forecast of a £700 million increase in government revenues from the industry over the next three years, Treasury sources insist little - if any - harm will be done. Opposition to the changes has been splintered. Large companies with mature fields should benefit from the drop in Petroleum Revenue Tax on existing fields from 75 to 50 per cent. But exploration companies say the removal of PRT from future fields will quadruple the cost of exploration. The Treasury's "worst-case" scenario, drawn up before the Budget, predicts 10,000 jobs will be lost if exploration activity is halved. Exploration companies say activity will fall even more.

Job cuts, page 25

Gilt auction success aids funding battle

By NEIL BENNETT

THE Bank of England starts its new financial year today with at least a quarter of the government's £50 billion borrowing requirement covered after the record £3 billion gilt-edged auction yesterday.

Bids of £5.87 billion, far higher than the City had expected, were received for the 20-year gilts. The result puts the Bank on a strong footing to continue a demanding run of monthly auctions over the summer. "This was a very satisfactory result," a spokeswoman said.

The level of demand also quelled fears that the City would boycott gilt sales after the base rate cut in January, which caused heavy losses among the securities houses. The Bank is estimated to have started the financial year with more than £14 billion of funding in place, including yesterday's auction. The City estimates the Bank over-funded last year by up to £6 billion, while investors also owe another £3.5 billion on part-paid issues. In addition, the Bank is expected to count up to £2 billion of the clearing banks' gilt holdings into its

■ The Chancellor's prospects of funding the government's £50 billion borrowing requirement brightened after a successful £3 billion gilts auction was oversubscribed

funding requirements this year, in line with the relaxation of the full-funding rule in the Budget.

The realisation that the Bank is well ahead of its funding targets, combined with the success of the auction, gave the gilt market and sterling a strong boost. Long-dated gilts rose more than 1.5 per cent to 115.062 at the close, the first time it has breached 115 since the end of January.

The pound also rose against the mark, closing a penny higher at DM2.4254. Sterling's trade-weighted index rose 0.4 points to 79.4.

The mark was hit when the Bundesbank nudged its securities repurchase, or repo, rate lower in a cautious move before today's council meeting. The repo rate, cut from 8.25 to 8.17 per cent, was seen in Frankfurt as likely to preclude any drop in key official

rates at today's session of the policy-making council.

The markets were also cheered by signs of a return to growth from the Purchasing Managers Index, which was above 50 for the second consecutive month in March, at 53.9 per cent. This suggests "the UK manufacturing sector is experiencing considerable growth," according to the Chartered Institute of Purchasing and Supply.

The Output index, which has recorded growth in manufacturing activity since November, reached 58.6 per cent last month.

The Bank of England needs to sell an estimated £52 billion of gilts this year to cover the government's borrowing requirement, and refinance six issues of gilts worth £7.3 billion that mature this year. To ensure it stays ahead of its funding requirements, the Bank also announced a £600 million ten-year stock issue. The government is making

it easier for individuals to buy large holdings of gilts after an upsurge of public interest in government stocks. All existing gilts will be available through post offices from April 7, and the upper limit for these purchases and those of new issues is being raised from £10,000 to £25,000 per stock. This ceiling had not been raised for five years in the case of new issues and ten years for those buying gilts through the register.

The main advantage to investors, apart from convenience, is that the interest on gilts on the National Savings Stock Register is paid gross and any income tax due is paid later.

The Bank is also publishing an information booklet on Monday about the gilt market and how to invest in it.

Governor's speech, page 1
Tempos, page 27
Anatole Kaletsky, page 27

Queens Moat stuns market with share suspension

By MARTIN WALLER, DEPUTY CITY EDITOR

BRITAIN'S third biggest hotel chain has shocked the stock market by requesting suspension of share trading "pending clarification of its financial position," prompting suspicions that the group is in breach of its lending agreements with banks. Queens Moat Houses, due to report full-year results next week, has debts, including convertible stock and off-balance sheet borrowings, estimated at £1.2 billion. These had already been the cause of concern, but the statement that payment of the £7 million dividend due yesterday was being deferred "for the time being" sent a shudder through other hotels stocks. The industry is dogged by huge overcapacity, with many hotels operating in receivership.

If any of Queens Moat's 100 British hotels are forced on to the market, battered asset values in the sector would take a further hammering. This would have dire implications for other big hotel groups such as Forte and Ladbroke with high borrowings, both of whose share prices were marked lower yesterday. In February, Martin Marcus, the second in command at Queens Moat, sold almost half his total holding to raise about £620,000, shortly before the company entered its closed season during which directors are not allowed to make such disposals.

He came in for criticism at the time but insisted the sale was to meet personal obligations. Mr Marcus, deputy chairman, and John Baird, chairman, were further criticised yesterday from brokers who insisted one or other would now have to resign. There was particular anger in the City over the lack of warning before the announce-

ment. Several large institutions had been buying stock yesterday, and the share price had risen by 1 1/2 p to 47 1/2 p before it was suspended. Even Queens Moat's broker, Barclays de Zotte Wedd, was not informed. Startled traders there said it was "a complete and utter bolt out of the blue. The first thing we knew about it was when it was on the screens."

Nobody at Queens Moat's Romford headquarters would enlarge on the short announcement to the stock exchange.

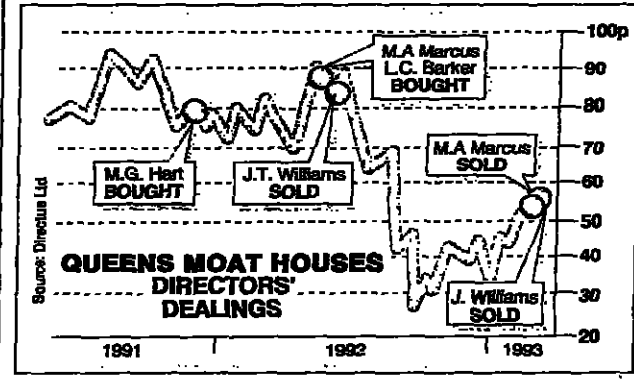
City analysts were left scratching their heads over the extent of the problem. Mark Finnie, leisure analyst at NatWest Securities and a long-time bear of the shares, said the concern was that a bank or group of banks may

Tempos page 27

have refused to honour the cheque to pay a preference dividend on some mortgage debenture stock. "My suspicion is that the banks would look to see a rescue rights issue," he said. "But the institutions won't have any of it."

Queens Moat is largely Mr Baird's own creation; he made his first fortune when his Baird Eves estate agency business was sold to Hambros Bank for £77 million in 1985. His career in the hotel trade was funded by large amounts of City cash, and the company became known for its regular rights issues. Queens Moat has no significant brand names in Britain; it operates as a franchise under the Holiday Inn banner, mainly on the Continent.

Stock market, page 26



Keep faith with the antitrust laws

It has become fashionable to lay some of America's economic problems at the door of excessive competition. Airlines complain that such competition forces air fares down to ruinous levels, while pharmaceutical companies complain that their inability to sit down and fix prices prevents them from setting price ceilings on their products. Meanwhile, America's high-techology companies want to be free to co-operate more and compete less on new products, and its manufacturing firms claim the antitrust laws unduly constrain them from co-operating in the conquering export markets. Such whingeing by competitors is neither new nor unusual. Sensible governments have learned to ignore it. But the Clinton administration is providing a more receptive audience. White House policymakers say they are committed to results, not theories, in trade, that means bilateral deals for specific market shares, rather than adherence to free trade policies. In the absence of competition policy, it means area of competition policy, it means providing antitrust relief to companies that argue that they would use such a relaxation to co-ordinate research, create jobs and pursue export markets. Furthermore, in the

administration's view, the historical emphasis on the role of the entrepreneur in American society is now misplaced: foreign demands more co-operation and co-ordination. Alternatives to the American competitive system have often seemed attractive. During the Great Depression, the Soviet model of centralised direction of economic affairs became fashionable. After 1945, critics of the competitive system looked to the socialist societies of Britain and Sweden for guides to superior economic performance, or to France's "indicative planning". Meanwhile, America's competitive economy moved forward, producing enormous wealth and distributing it widely, as firms vied with each other to keep costs and prices down, and to discover new consumer products. During the Reagan years, small businesses created almost 20 million net new jobs. Some industries, of course, managed to avoid tough competition, at least for a while. Auto and steel companies became so beguiled by their

market shares that they grew inattentive to costs and the need to innovate. Enter foreign firms to offer consumers alternatives, and smaller domestic firms to whittle away at the likes of IBM with better, cheaper products. One reason America's smaller, more competitive companies continue to thrive and generate jobs is that their ability to enter markets and compete with established firms is guaranteed by the antitrust laws. As John Shenefield, former head of the antitrust division at the US Justice department, and I point out in our book, *The Antitrust Laws: A Primer*, larger rivals cannot lawfully adopt anti-competitive practices that bar fair entry, or close off distribution outlets, or divide markets among themselves. All of these benefits of open markets are now at risk, as competition-weary businessmen and fledgling government planners again attempt to blame America's economic problems on its pro-competition policies. Alter-

native models of co-operation between industrialists and shareholding banks (Germany), or of government co-ordinated cartels (Japan) are being touted by Clintonites. Never mind that Japan's cartels keep prices to consumers at extortionate levels, while Germany's inter-related financial and industrial firms are so burdened with social costs as to be non-competitive in many markets. These failures do not seem to be deterring the administration from studying ways of ameliorating the force of competition in the American economy, in the hope of shoring up the industrial behemoths - IBM, General Motors and others - that would best be left to adapt or perish. In short, protection has many faces. One has been barred by the White House team stalling on the North American Free Trade Agreement and wants to call Range Rovers trucks so as to load them with a 25 per cent duty. Another, more subtle, is being shown by a group that wants to protect businesses from domestic competition. Both faces are turned against the consumer and, in the long run, the dynamic flexibility that has made America's economy the envy of the world.



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Central focuses on expansion after bumper profits

By MARTIN WALLER, DEPUTY CITY EDITOR

CENTRAL Independent Television, after a year of bumper profits and the prospect of more to come under the new independent television franchise system, is making increasingly aggressive noises about helping out its smaller and less financially stable brethren.

Leslie Hill, Central's chairman and chief executive, said pre-tax profits in the year to end-December soared to £41.1 million from £24.4 million as a result of higher advertising revenue, more programme sales and an £18 million reduction in the levy the company has to pay to the government, while cash began to pile up in the bank.

Advertising revenues were up 8.8 per cent last year, and are currently 8 to 10 per cent higher than in the first quarter

The financial weakness of other television companies will force the government to reconsider legislation preventing takeovers by rival franchisees

of 1992, although Mr Hill cautions against taking this as a guide for the full year. Central's slice of the national advertising cake rose last year from 14.4 to 15.1 per cent.

To mark the "exceptional steep change in the group's profitability", a final dividend of 28p will raise the total from 30.5p to 38p.

Central, whose best known programme is probably the *Inspector Morse* series, made an audacious bid of £2,000 to retain the franchise, successfully gambling that there would be no other bidders that could pass the hurdle of programme quality.

Other television companies, notably the neighbouring Yorkshire and HTV businesses, bid far higher, and some stock market commentators have placed a question mark over their viability. HTV, for one, is widely forecast to end up under other ownership by the end of the franchise period.

Mr Hill is a long-time critic of the regulations that forbid one large television contractor from bidding for another and is believed to harbour ambitions towards expansion if the rules are relaxed. He returned to the theme with yesterday's results, suggesting that the rules might have to be set aside if

any of his competitors were to get into financial difficulty.

"I think that almost everybody now accepts that these ownership rules are crazy," he said. "The only problem now is that the government has got other things to do. It's probably only a question of time before there's some change."

He added that if it is not sanctioned by the government, that change may be forced on the television network by "economic circumstances," most notably if some companies could no longer afford to fulfil their licence commitments and had to be taken over by another.

"Any business worth its salt wants to grow. Clearly, we would like to grow in that direction," Mr Hill said, "but the only companies were allowed to take over are too small to be worth it."

Central, which saw net debt of £9 million at the start of 1991 swing into a £9.3 million surplus by December 31, is talking to other European media groups about possible links, but is eschewing any diversification outside its core business — "no safari parks or paintings or video shops," Mr Hill promised.

Tempos, page 27



New outfit: Country Casuals' chief executive John Shannon, left, Christina Bunce, marketing director, and Mark Bunce, finance director

Country Casuals bids for Lerose

By OUR DEPUTY CITY EDITOR

IN the second agreed bid from the rag trade in less than a week, Country Casuals, the upmarket retailer, is paying £10.8 million for House of Lerose, the fashion designer that reported a further operating loss for the latest financial year. Last Friday, Helene made a bid for Gabicci.

Country Casuals, which came to market last summer, reported pre-tax profits up from £2.01 million to £2.58 million in the year to January 23, its first full-year results since the float, and a final dividend of 2.7p. It is offering £3.4 million in new shares and £7.4 million in cash for Lerose. The bid has the backing of holders of 25 per cent of Lerose shares.

John Shannon, Country Casuals chief executive, said the intention was to buy a fashion designer whose brands, including Elvi, Match Set and Cinch as well as Lerose, would be sold through his company's shops.

Lerose made a £1.65 million pre-tax profit in 1992 (£3.63 million), but this came from a £1.82 million pension fund surplus refund, and at the operating level there was a £973,000 loss.

Kingfisher names chief

By SUSAN GILCHRIST

KINGFISHER, the Woolworths, B&Q and Comet stores group, surprised the City yesterday by announcing the appointment of Alan Smith, a Marks and Spencer director, as its chief executive.

Sir Geoffrey Mulcahy will relinquish the post of chief executive, which he has held since 1986, but will carry on as chairman.

Mr Smith's arrival comes in the wake of the group's £560 million takeover of Darty, the French electrical retailer, which would have put the small management team at the top of Kingfisher under pressure. Besides Sir Geoffrey, Kingfisher has only two other executive directors — James Kerr-Muir, finance director,

and Nigel Whittaker, head of corporate affairs.

Mr Whittaker said: "We needed to broaden the management team. With continued growth in our UK businesses plus our international developments it would have been difficult to spread it all between three directors."

Kingfisher has had Mr Smith in mind for the job for some time and approached him last year. "He had three strong qualities that appealed to us," Mr Whittaker said. "He has done every sort of retailing job at board level from food to fashion at Marks and Spencer; he has a good strategic brain and his personality fits with ours."

Mr Smith joined M&S as a

management trainee in 1964, was appointed to the board in 1978 and rose to the post of store operations director.

Kingfisher denied the appointment was forced on them in response to the Cadbury committee's code on corporate governance, which advocates splitting the roles of chairman and chief executive. "We already comply with Cadbury by having six non-executive directors," Mr Whittaker said.

The news was welcomed by analysts. Julie Ramshaw, a retail analyst at Morgan Stanley, said: "Alan Smith is a very credible candidate with good retail experience. Marks and Spencer gives one of the best groundings in retail and financial discipline."

More job gloom as axe falls on 2,000

By ROSS TIEMAN, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

MORE than 2,000 job losses in industries ranging from power generation to mail order distribution were announced yesterday.

A further 349 jobs will go at Leyland DAF, the truck maker that went into administrative receivership on February 3. At the lorry assembly plant in Leyland, Lancashire, the workforce will be reduced by 273 to just 1,093, while at the Albion axle plant in Glasgow, a further 76 jobs will be cut. Because the company has collapsed, it will be unable to make redundancy payments.

More than 41 per cent of the 5,322 workers employed by DAF in Britain have now lost their jobs.

BM Group, the construction plant manufacturer and distributor, will lose 600 workers in plant closures at Durham and Colne, Lancashire.

And in a further cutback triggered by intensifying competition in electricity generation, National Power, Britain's biggest generating group, is closing two power stations, with the loss of 400 jobs.

The company's 1,022 megawatt coal plant at West Thurrock, Essex, which employs 330 people, is the biggest to close. The other is a 224 megawatt plant at Padstow, Lancashire, which can burn coal or oil.

Having decided further closures were inevitable, National Power is understood to have chosen to shut the West Thurrock plant, which burns imported coal, to avoid jeopardising further coal jobs.

The company has given warning that a further 2,300 megawatts may be closed over the next two years.

John Baker, the chief executive, said yesterday: "With electricity demand flat and likely to remain so, the surplus of plant will persist."

The company will try to achieve job cuts through natural wastage and voluntary redundancies. Empire Stores, part of La Redoute, the French mail order group, is shedding 180 jobs among distribution employees. Part of their work is being contracted out to Parcel-Force, the Post Office subsidiary, which said it had adequate capacity without new hirings.

Ocean Group, the transport and storage company, said the reorganisation of its overhead structure, announced in January, would mean 500 job losses. Many of these have taken place and almost all the balance will occur before the end of 1993.

Wace plunges to loss of £28.4m

By JON ASHWORTH

WACE Group, the pre-press and specialist printing group, has passed its final dividend (6p last time) after reporting a pre-tax loss of £28.4 million (£9.8 million profit) in the year to end-December.

The reversal was attributed to restructuring costs of £11.5 million and property provisions of £17 million. A further £8.1 million, previously written off to reserves, was charged to the profit and loss account.

Wace spared itself an additional £12 million property write-off by deciding not to downgrade the value of occupied buildings on the basis that property prices will eventually improve.

The provisions have cut the value of net assets from £78.7 million to £45 million. Trading profits slipped to £19.1 million (£23.4 million). The dividend for the year is cut to 2.25p (8.25p) a share.

Wace has decided not to sell its American operations after all. Trevor Grice, chief executive since October, said a consortium of banks, led by National Westminster, had granted the company some breathing space, despite borrowings of £88.7 million. It was expected that an American sale would raise up to £65 million.

Wace admitted that its bankers appointed Ernst & Young to carry out a selective review of operations. The review was completed two weeks ago and concluded that a disposal was not necessary. Mr Grice said 1993 would be a year of consolidation. "There will be no fire sales of anything. We will make selective disposals when appropriate," he said.

The shares fell 9p on the results but ended the day 2p down at 90p.

H&C moves ahead with caution

HARRISONS & Crosfield, the breakfast cereals to building supplies group, is cautious about 1993 because of the recession in Europe.

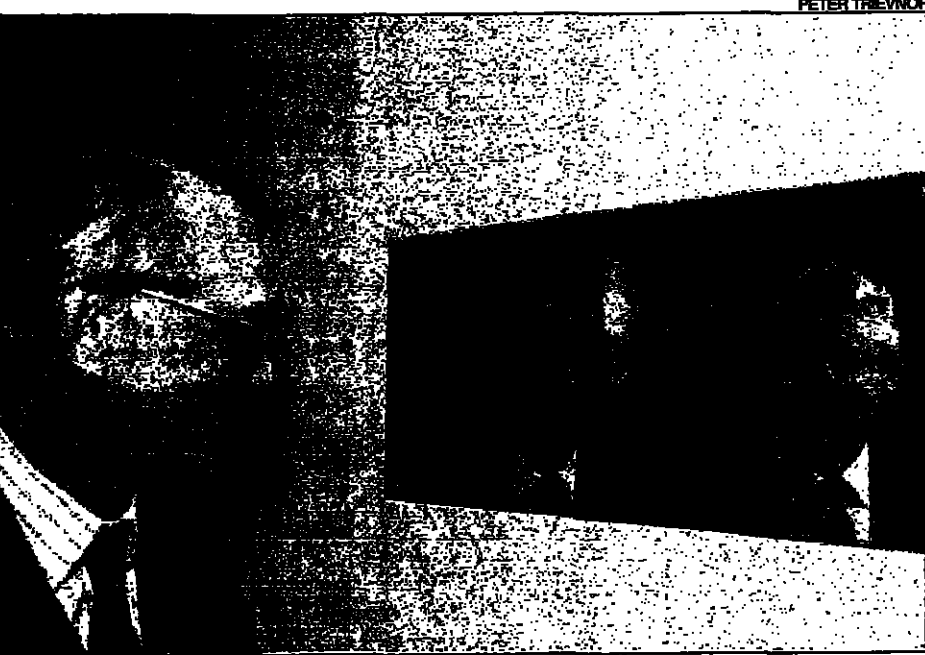
Pre-tax profits in the year to December rose to £85 million (£71.2 million) as the contribution from Far East plantations doubled to £20.1 million and profits from food and agriculture advanced to £38.6 million (£28.7 million).

The full implications of Budget changes to advance corporation tax are not yet clear so the dividend is held at 9p a share, though, as in 1991, the it is not covered by net earnings.

George Paul, chief executive, said H&C had continued to invest during the recession, and had taken action to reduce costs and increase productivity.

The shares rose 5p to 167p.

Tempos, page 27



Facing a difficult year: George Paul, left, and Bill Turcan, H&C finance director

Over 1m caught in mortgage trap

By LINDSAY COOK, MONEY EDITOR

THE government estimates that more than a million homebuyers have mortgages larger than the value of their properties. This means that more than 10 per cent of those with mortgages would have a problem moving house.

Anthony Nelson, Treasury economic secretary, said in a parliamentary written answer that in the last quarter of 1992 there were 1.03 million homes with negative equity.

The figure is lower than the Bank of England's estimate that 1.7 million homebuyers have negative equity.

This is because the Department of Environment calculates its figures using 5 per cent of house sale completions. This has not gone down as much as the Halifax house price index, Adrian Coles, head of external affairs at the Council of Mortgage Lenders, said.

Each month, the house price indices from the Halifax and Nationwide building societies plunge more homebuyers into negative equity. While the

rate of house price fall has been slowing in recent months, no one is expecting rises to be reported yet.

The environment department statistics exclude homes that have been sold or repossessed. The building societies exclude repossessed properties from their house price averages, as these would depress the figures even more.

Several smaller societies have asked the Halifax and Nationwide to stop publishing their statistics as they feel they are discouraging new buyers from the market.

The figures from the Halifax and Nationwide for March are unlikely to show a rise. While there have been more mortgage applications the number of completions has remained low.

The fall in house prices over the last three years means property is more affordable than at any time since the Halifax started monitoring house prices in 1983. The average house was 3.31 times the average salary at the end of December.

Bowing out

The first casualty of Spring Ram's accounting affair has been announced with the resignation of Stuart Greenwood, financial director. Mr Greenwood, who joined the company last year, was criticised over his role in the introduction of the recent accounting changes which resulted in a £10 million profits collapse for 1992. He is staying on until his successor is appointed.

Going for gold

Trading on the London gold market was active for the second successive day. Gold rose \$2 to \$337.75 an ounce, after a \$3.50 one-day rise on Monday. Platinum was \$3 higher at \$363.25, and silver was 12 cent firmer at \$3.91 an ounce.

Scholl steady

Pre-tax profits at Scholl, the healthcare products group, were unchanged at £16.07 million in 1992. It is increasing the total dividend to 6.3p a share from 6p, with a 3.7p final (3.5p) from earnings of 12.1p, down from 13.1p.

BM rescue plan aims to cut debts to £114m

By CARL MORTISHED

PROVISIONS of £42 million and 600 job losses were announced at BM Group, the engineering and distribution conglomerate. Moger Woolley, BM's new chairman, has outlined a rescue plan for the company, which is now in talks with its bankers. The rescue is intended to reduce total debts to £114 million.

BM's results for the six months to end-December showed a pre-tax profit of £8.6 million (£17.3 million), but Mr Woolley said there was reason to be concerned about the reliability of the profits. "There has been overprovisioning for acquisitions," he said. Carl Young, BM's finance director, is to resign by the end of June, by mutual agreement, and Price Waterhouse is being appointed

auditor instead of Kingston Smith. Analysts are forecasting a £35 million loss for the year to end-June. Mr Woolley said that trading in all the group's markets had continued to decline, but he hoped that success in the restructuring programme would enable BM to return to profit in the 1993-4 financial year. As a signal for recovery, BM is paying out an interim dividend of 0.5p (2.1p), although Mr Woolley said that a payment in the second half would depend on progress on the restructuring. Sales in the period to June were £263 million (£229 million), boosted by a £57 million contribution from Thomas Robinson, acquired last February. Trading in the second half will be hit by provisions of £12 million for the

disposal of Blackwood Hodge, the earth-moving equipment distributor, and £11 million of provisions for redundancies and reorganisation at Wadkin, the wood-working machinery business, and Benford, the construction equipment manufacturer. Group properties are being written down by £4.9 million.

Profits for the year will also be hit by an exceptional charge of £11 million due to the writedown of a pension pre-payment. BM recognised a pension fund surplus of about £42 million last June, but the new management took a closer look at the figures at the end of last year. Mr Woolley said that the actuarial assumptions used were at the optimistic end of the range. BM has warned its bankers that it

is in breach of interest and asset covenants over £105 million of loans plus stock finance totalling £41 million. The rescue plan includes disposals of the group's 75 per cent stake in quoted BB&EA, which is worth £22 million, and Austoft, BM's Australian subsidiary.

Under Roger Shute, the former chairman, BM expanded rapidly by acquisition, sending the share price rocketing to almost 400p, until his resignation last summer, due to illness. The shares fell from 36p to 31p after yesterday's announcement. Analysts reckon that BM overpaid for Thomas Robinson, the troubled engineering conglomerate taken over last year for twice its then market value of £20 million.

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trading

ECONOMIC VIEW

Spread the news, inflation really has been defeated

index dipped 1.03
end at 6,388.50
The Straits
Industrial index closed
points to close at
1.03
The
index ended at
1,667.44
off a low of 1,667.44
The Day Index
1.86 point down at
1,667.44

Anatole Kaletsky detects
the beginning of a new
economic era of rapid,
non-inflationary growth
to compare with that of
fifties and sixties

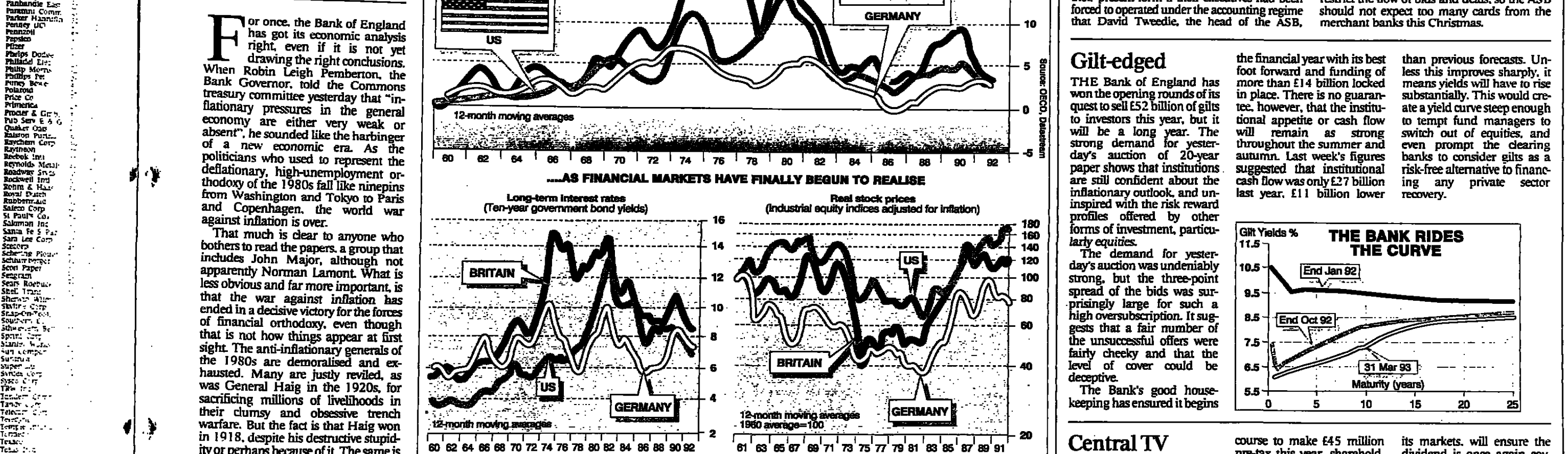
For once, the Bank of England
has got its economic analysis
right, even if it is not yet
drawing the right conclusions.
When Robin Leigh-Pemberton,
the Bank Governor, told the Commons
treasury committee yesterday that "inflationary
pressures in the general
economy are either very weak or
absent", he sounded like the harbinger
of a new economic era. As the
politicians who used to represent the
deflationary, high-unemployment or-
thodoxy of the 1980s fall like ninespins
from Washington and Tokyo to Paris
and Copenhagen, the world war
against inflation is over.

That much is clear to anyone who
bothers to read the papers, a group that
includes John Major, although not
apparently Norman Lamont. What is
less obvious and far more important, is
that the war against inflation has
ended in a decisive victory for the forces
of financial orthodoxy, even though
that is not how things appear at first
sight. The anti-inflationary generals of
the 1980s are demoralised and ex-
hausted. Many are justly reviled, as
was General Haig in the 1920s, for
sacrificing millions of livelihoods in
their clumsy and obsessive trench
warfare. But the fact is that Haig won
in 1918, despite his destructive stupidity
or perhaps because of it. The same is
true of the anti-inflationary generals of
the 1980s. Inflation is thoroughly
defeated and will not be back to ravage
the world economy for many years.

In making this statement, I know
that I open myself to near-universal
derision. Every prediction about a sea-
change in economic behaviour is
rightly treated with scepticism by
people who know what they are doing
in business and the financial world.
Usually, such predictions are contrary
indicators of what is actually going on.
The smart money will instinctively
reach for gold and index-linked bonds
when the economics editor of *The Times*
announces that "inflation is
thoroughly defeated". Worse still, my
statement chimes ominously with
Samuel Brittan's assertion in the
Financial Times, last Thursday that
"the world is not far from reasonable
price stability". Perhaps it is time to sell
everything and emigrate to Argentina.

There are, however, times when
great economic trends do change. The
pundits could just be right this time,
especially as we have spotted the "new"
trend some ten years too late.

History is the clearest reason for
believing that the inflation trend is now
firmly downwards. Although the de-
gree of public alarm about rising prices
has grown in the last 15 years and the
political consensus against inflation
only solidified in the mid-1980s,
history shows that inflation has actually
been on the wane since the mid-1970s,



not only in Britain but in virtually every
other industrialised country. There
have been temporary ups and downs
connected with movements in econo-
mic cycles but in Britain and the
industrialised countries as a group,
each of the last two inflationary peaks
has been lower than the one before.
The same has been true of the troughs
of each inflationary cycle.

To consider in detail the reasons
behind the long-term upsurge of
inflation that culminated in the mid-
1970s would require a book-length
treatise, taking in the breakdown of
fixed exchange rates, the creation of
Opec and the struggles over income
distribution and trade union power. To
explain why these pressures peaked
some 10 to 15 years ago, would require
another. I shall look briefly at these
subjects next Thursday. But first, it is
worth asking a smaller question. If
inflationary pressures have actually
been receding for over a decade, why
has the public alarm about it grown?

Apart from the obvious observation
that politics is full of generals who want
to fight the last war and are persuasive
enough to take the public with them, I
can think of two reasons.

First, there is simple disinformation.
A few months ago, I attended a lunch
with a well-known professor of money
economics, who appears regularly
in the media and serves on numerous
committees. When I suggested that in-
flation was in retreat, he said this was
nonsense. The Treasury and Bank of
England had never understood how to
control the money supply, as a result,
inflation had risen in every economic
cycle since the 1950s and would con-
tinue to accelerate. The politicians at
the table nodded in grave assent. But I
pointed out that his facts were simply
wrong. Inflation had fallen, not risen,
in both business cycles since 1973.
"Well all right then," he rejoined.
"Inflation has risen in every single
economic cycle, except for the last two".

Another reason for the world's
reluctance to acknowledge
declining inflation has been
the American experience.

While most of the world suffered its
worst inflation crisis in 1974, in
America the inflation of 1980 was far
more virulent. Even more significant
psychologically was the financial fall-
out of the two great inflations. As the
charts show, American interest rates
hardly responded to the 1974 infla-
tion, but shot up to crippling levels in
1980-2. The American stock market
also suffered far worse in the second
inflation than in the first. In Britain,
by contrast, the crisis of 1974 was far
worse than the one in 1980, whether in
terms of inflation, interest rates or
stockmarket performance. The same
was clearly true for Japan and, to a
lesser extent, for Germany and most of

Europe. Yet American experience has
always dominated financial thinking
around the world. When I suggested to
one top financier that the two world
recessions of 1980-2 and 1991-3 may
have been the aftermaths of the
economic earthquake that occurred in
1973-5, he flatly refused to accept this.
The truly fundamental economic crises
were the ones of the last decade, he
insisted. "After the 1980s it will take
many years for banks and businesses to
recover their self-confidence."

The remark illustrates the
importance of what may appear a
purely theoretical debate. If the truly
fundamental economic crisis was the
one of the late-1980s and early-1990s,
then the world is probably in for at least
a decade of slow financial healing and
business convalescence.

But what if the last 20 years have in
fact been the period of convalescence
after the 1973-5 crisis? Then we may
finally be getting ready for another
long period of rapid, non-inflationary
growth like the 1950s and 1960s. Econo-
mists, politicians and financiers
naturally tend towards the gloomy. But
looking at world stock and bond prices,
it is clear that the optimistic view is
gaining sway in financial markets. Not
for the first time, the markets may
prove more perceptive than the people
working within them.

Next week: causes and aftermaths of
the great inflation.

trading

TEMPUS

Acquired taste

IF THE Accounting Standards Board continues
working at this pace, British corporate
profitability may be a thing of the past. Only a
week after its attack on the abuses of asset
valuation, the ASB has published its plans to
reform acquisition accounting, that peculiarly
British institution that has created and
nourished many of the country's largest
conglomerates in the past decade.

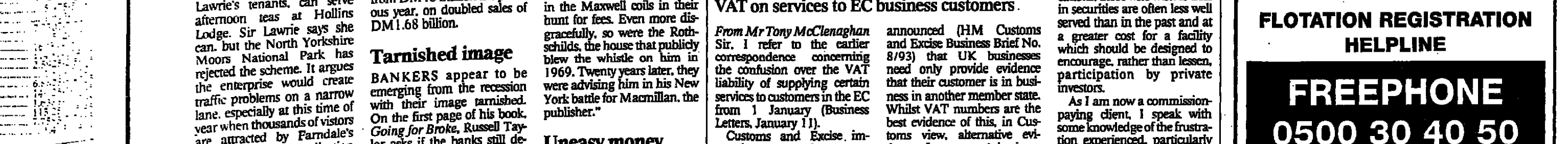
The ASB is rapidly knocking away all the
sticks that have propped up the earnings of
Britain's largest companies, and investors
should prepare for some shocks when the
proposals finally become standards. Companies
such as Grand Metropolitan, Hanson, BTR
and Williams would not have been created in
their present form if their executives had been
forced to operate under the accounting regime
that David Tweedie, the head of the ASB,
proposes. Businesses would have thought
twice about many of their acquisitions if they
had not been allowed to hide the punitive bid
and reorganisation costs in all-encompassing
provisions that they could then use and even
replenish in future years.

The companies most susceptible to takeover
are normally those in need of the greatest
restructuring. Under the ASB's proposals, the
costs of restructuring would restrict a buyer's
earnings for years. Perversely, the standard
may have given the stock market's lamest
ducks an effective poison pill. In future, it may
be only the better-managed businesses that
are susceptible to hostile bids. In any event,
the proposals, if they become standard, will
restrict the flow of bids and deals, so the ASB
should not expect too many cards from the
merchant banks this Christmas.

trading

Gilt-edged

THE Bank of England has won the opening rounds of its quest to sell £52 billion of gilts to investors this year, but it will be a long year. The strong demand for yesterday's auction of 20-year paper shows that institutions are still confident about the inflationary outlook, and uninspired by the risk reward profiles offered by other forms of investment, particularly equities.



trading

Central TV

CENTRAL has made a quantum leap in profitability, but until broadcasting legislation is changed, it is difficult to see how it can make further dramatic progress.

Advertising revenue forged ahead, despite the recession, as advertisers chose to concentrate their limited budgets on densely populated urban areas rather than the regions. However, as overall advertising spending picks up, this trend is likely to be reversed.

The group will also find itself paying more to the Exchequer this year, despite its cheery £2,000 franchise bid. Under the new system it also has to hand over 11 per cent of its advertising revenue. The levy is likely to top £23 million against £14 million in 1992.

Growth in the British television industry is driven more by cost control than revenue gains, and Central has extracted most of the potential savings from its business. Until the regulatory framework is loosened, the group can only dream of the savings from a takeover of another large franchise.

Although Central is on course to make £45 million pre-tax this year, shareholders and management may feel increasingly frustrated at the lack of opportunity to develop the business.

trading

Volkswagen

VOLKSWAGEN'S hopes for a small profit and modest dividend payment this year look distinctly forlorn after the DM1.25-billion first-quarter net loss.

While much of this was caused by restructuring, there was no disguising the 10.5 per cent fall in car deliveries, which is likely to worsen. This will depress second-half profits even if the restructuring proceeds according to plan. José Lopez, VW's new production chief, faces a sweaty race to reduce fixed costs faster than group sales.

trading

Harrisons & Crossfield

FOR the second year running, Harrisons & Crossfield is paying an unchanged but uncovered dividend. In its defence, management says the dividend payment is covered by cash flow and recovery, under way in several of its markets, will ensure the dividend is once again covered by earnings this year.

The prospect for an increase in the dividend is murkier. To achieve comfortable cover of two times, the group will have to boost pre-tax profits to about £180 million — more than double last year's figure. Investors wanting income growth should look elsewhere.

Queens Moat

THE strained financial position of Queens Moat Houses had been attracting adverse comment for some months. The group was close to breaching its borrowing covenants, but appeared to have the resilience to trade through. Now it seems the balance sheet and trading position were in an even worse state than the most pessimistic estimates.

There must still be value left in the company, but shareholders should prepare themselves for massive dilution in any bank-led restructuring. If only they had had the foresight of Martin Marcus, the joint managing director, who sold 1.1 million shares in February.

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Storm over teacups

SIR Lawrie Barratt, chairman of Barratt Developments, may have made his fortune already, but he remains keen to encourage others' entrepreneurial skills. This time, however, it has involved him in a row that has split the residents of his 4,500-acre Farndale estate on the Yorkshire Moors. The dispute centres on whether Christine Wilson, one of Sir Lawrie's tenants, can serve afternoon teas at Hollins Lodge. Sir Lawrie says she can, but the North Yorkshire Moors National Park has rejected the scheme. It argues the enterprise would create traffic problems on a narrow lane, especially at this time of year when thousands of visitors are attracted by Farndale's wild daffodils. The application has also sparked a row between Mrs Wilson and Ray and Fran Debenham, owners of The Feversham, the local pub. Mrs Wilson says her family is being victimised and is not welcome at the pub if she continues to stay open for business. The Debenhams argue that too much competition could force them to close. Meanwhile, Sir Lawrie's leaseholders are looking on incredulously, as he has made it clear to them repeatedly that they cannot run businesses from their properties.

Skoda overtakes

I HAVE just become the proud owner of a 16-valve Skoda — 15 of the valves are in Skoda — 15 of the valves are in Skoda. These and many other jokes have been doing the rounds about the Skoda for years, but they raise hardly a titter these days at Volkswagen, which encompasses the VW, Audi, Seat and Skoda marques. Skoda was one of the group's star performers last year. The eastern European carmaker benefited from extremely low wage costs and the beginnings of economic growth in the region after the severe recession caused by the collapse of the Soviet empire. In 1992, Skoda showed a net profit of DM233 million, up from DM46 million the previous year, on doubled sales of DM1.68 billion.

Tarnished image

BANKERS appear to be emerging from the recession with their image tarnished. On the first page of his book, *Going for Broke*, Russell Taylor asks if the banks still deserve our trust, having lost billions of pounds in the last decade. Mr Taylor, a former director of Hambros Bank, the Italian International Bank and City editor of the *Observer*, effectively answers his own question. He says: "High Court writs may have silenced journalists, but Robert Maxwell's dishonesty was already known to bankers in the late 1950s and was publicly proclaimed in 1971." He then questions the judgment of various international banks before ending up with a stinging attack on N.M. Rothschild. "These banks were all caught in the Maxwell coils in their hunt for fees. Even more disgracefully, so were the Rothschilds, the house that publicly blew the whistle on him in 1969. Twenty years later, they were advising him in his New York battle for Macmillan, the publisher."

Uneasy money

THE German news magazine, *Der Spiegel*, has come up with some interesting and little-known facts about Dieter Bock, the man who spent £120 million buying an 18 per cent stake in Lomrho and was appointed joint chief executive. According to the latest edition, spending money does not come easy to Bock, who is regarded as one of Germany's wealthiest men. He is often seen driving a seven-year-old Citroën 2CV and when he came to London to negotiate with Lomrho's Roland "Tiny" Rowland, packed his essentials in a plastic bag. The address of his new office at Lomrho should please him... it is in Cheapside.

Paying private business bills on time

From Mr M. Scott-Hayward

Sir, As the owner of a small firm, I have recently received a polite notice from the Inland Revenue, informing me that interest will be charged by the government on any late payments of Income Tax-PAYE. National Insurance contributions and amounts deductible from payments made to subcontractors in the construction industry.

VAT on services to EC business customers

From Mr Tony McLennaghan

Sir, I refer to the earlier correspondence concerning the confusion over the VAT liability of supplying certain services to customers in the EC from 1 January (Business Letters, January 11).

Time marches on for securities

From J. M. C. Wesson

Sir, I agree with Lindsay Cook's "New look urged on regulation" (March 26). Too much regulation sometimes imposed by regulators with scant knowledge stifles a market.

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"Let's put it this way, I wouldn't still be doing this job after 5 years if I didn't enjoy it. To start with, there's the variety of people you meet. Everyone's needs are slightly different and there's real satisfaction in helping people to sort out their financial problems. Now I'm managing a small team and I've got the added pleasure of seeing new people develop with the help of our comprehensive training. I've worked hard for my success, but now I've got everything I want for my family and I'm happy - what more can you ask?"

Stephen is part of a select group of men and women who represent Barclays Life. He's demonstrated the essential qualities we're looking for - the ability to acquire in-depth knowledge of our financial products and their applications, a high degree of personal and professional integrity, a flair for communication and the commitment and determination to succeed. And with the strength of Barclays behind him, he'll have every chance to fulfil his potential.

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مركز التوظيف

ACCOUNTANCY

Filling in a black hole at the centre of the takeover business

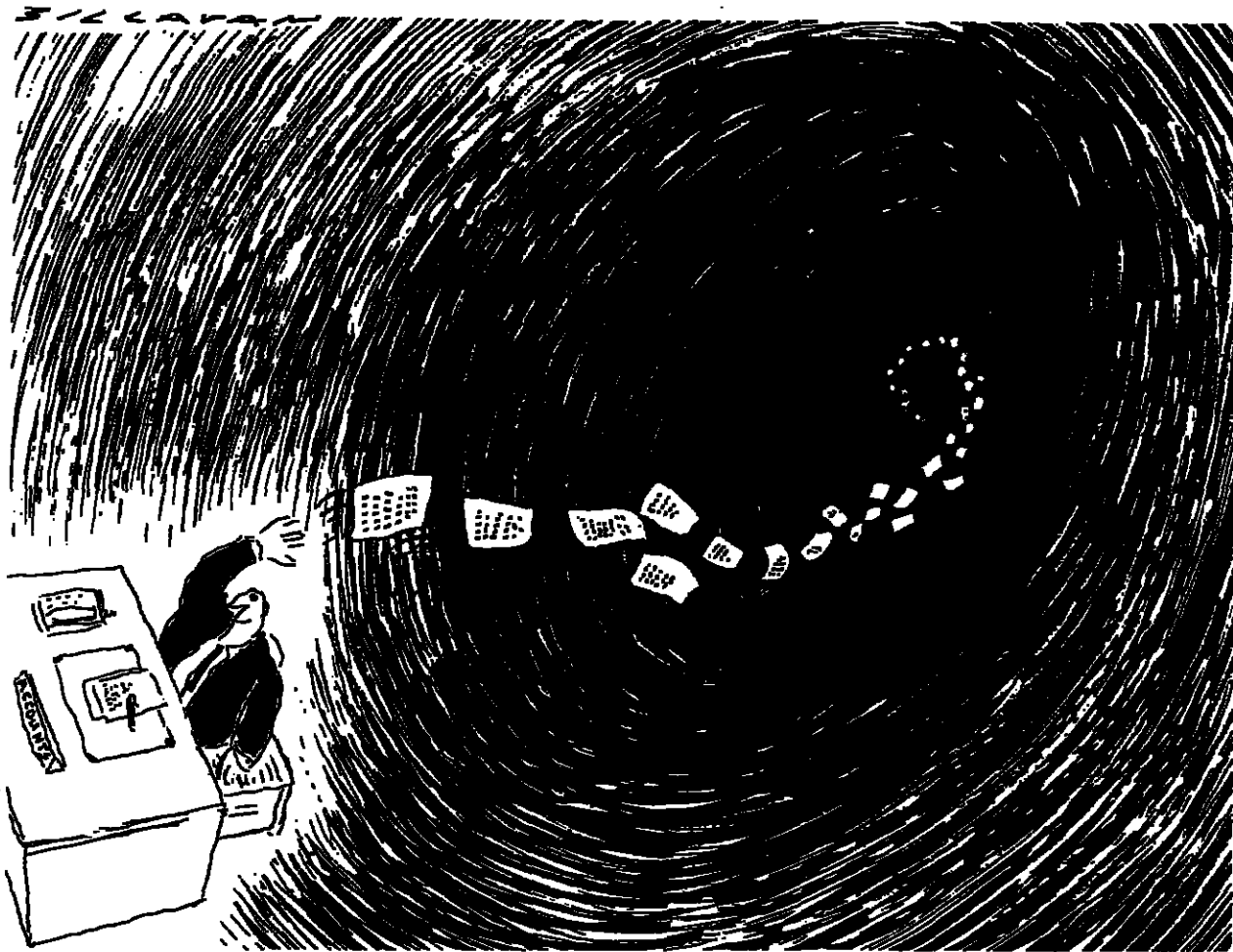
By SARAH BAGNALL

THE ability of companies to flatter future profits through the use of acquisition accounting techniques will be severely limited if David Tweedie, chairman of the Accounting Standards Board, gets his way. The ASB's latest discussion paper, *Fair Values in Acquisition Accounting*, will transform current accounting practice, affecting acquirers' profit and loss accounts and balance sheets. The issue of acquisition accounting, and in particular the use of fair value provisioning, is of widespread concern. On purchasing a business, companies often write down a wide range of the acquired company's assets, including stocks, work in progress and fixed assets, reducing the balance sheet value of the acquired company. This boosts the combined group's future profits by allowing costs and write-downs to be passed to the P&L account via goodwill write-offs.

When an acquired company's fixed assets are written down, the combined group's profits benefit more gradually because a smaller depreciation charge can be taken against the assets' smaller balance sheet value. Acquirers do not stop there. Under the present rules, companies can provide for costs of reorganising or integrating an acquired business, which can run into hundreds of millions of pounds. The result of pre-acquisition write-downs is that profits do not reflect what actually has taken place but what the acquirer would have liked to have happened.

Mr Tweedie said: "Acquisition accounting has been described as the 'black hole' of financial reporting in the UK. The contention that reorganisation expenses or losses to be incurred following an acquisition should be deemed to be existing liabilities of the acquired is perverse."

Instead, the ASB is proposing that provisions for future losses and reorganisation costs following an acquisition should be treated as post-acquisition charges to the consolidated P&L. When these



costs are material they should appear as exceptional items.

The discussion paper proposes drawing a line between a company's liabilities at the point of its acquisition and any anticipated future liabilities. When an acquisition is made, it argues, the fair value provisioning should not anticipate the costs of the acquirer's plans for making changes to the activities of the acquired or acquirer. Expected costs or losses, even if they influenced the investment decision, would no longer be accounted for as fair value provisions.

The paper addresses how to calculate the initial fair values of assets, so that the fair values of stocks and work in progress should be at the lower of replacement cost or net realisable value.

The proposals are aimed at achieving greater clarity in

reporting post-acquisition activities by enabling users of accounts to assess the financial impact of an acquisition. The ASB recognises difficulties in cases where takeovers are agreed, where the opportunity for abuse will remain unless anti-avoidance measures are taken. An acquired company

being post-acquisition. The ASB is seeking views on how to ensure that agreed and hostile takeovers are treated consistently. The timing of fair value provisioning has also proved controversial. A company cannot be expected to know the relevant amount of fair value provisioning imm-

Much revised proposals from the ASB will radically reform acquisition accounting

could take action so that on being taken over, the acquiring company has newly created pre-acquisition liabilities. One possible way of narrowing the scope for abuse would be to require that any move undertaken in the six months before an acquisition would automatically be treated as

immediately it lays its hands on the acquired business. Not all the necessary information may be available until the purchaser has control. However, some companies, such as TI Group, the engineering concern, have prompted fierce criticism for its use of retrospective provisioning, often years after the

acquisition took place. The ASB proposals will put an end to such activity by requiring companies to restrict adjustments to fair values and goodwill to a period ending on the date at which the financial statements for the first full financial year after the acquisition are approved by the directors. After this period, all profits or losses from disposal of acquired assets or settlement of assumed liabilities will go through the P&L and, if material, be charged as exceptional items.

The proposals mark a significant change from existing standards and also from ED53, an earlier proposal issued in July 1990 by the former Accounting Standards Committee. Comments are invited by June 14. The ASB then expects to issue an exposure draft for a new standard.

Ramming home the auditing message

THE independence of the auditor is a concept that has been much argued over lately. At the last council meeting of the English ICA, representatives of the large firms were falling over themselves to proclaim that auditors were robust with errant companies. They were indignant that anyone, least of all the Auditing Practices Board, in its McFarlane report on the future development of auditing, should think otherwise.

They may be right. Or they may be wrong. The problem is that there is really no way of knowing. The concept of client confidentiality gets in the way. Auditors may well be knocking the heads of finance directors and company chairmen together in private and insisting on probity and prudent financial reporting. But, like the relationship between doctors and patients, none of what is happening is supposed to be made public.

The public may be sceptical. After all, if auditors have indeed spent the last decade forcing clients to take tough decisions over financial reporting, you wonder how Terry Smith in his long catalogue of reporting fudges and deceptions in *Accounting For Growth* managed to find so many blatant

so long over whether being robust with clients is myth or reality, the firms will now, in carefully selected cases, make their positions plainer to City watchers.

The case also widens the debate over how information is communicated to the City. If a company is allowing analysts to believe a particular line that the auditors know is not feasible, should the auditors not have some kind of duty to let the analysts and the City know? After all, the auditors are there to protect shareholders' interests and to ensure that the board, which technically the shareholders have appointed, is doing a good and honest job.

This again brings us back to the McFarlane report which laid great emphasis on trying to wean audit firms away from the perception that the client was the board of directors rather than the shareholders. "The colloquial use of the word 'client' by auditors when referring to the company conveys the wrong relationship and adds to confusion as to the role of audit," it said.

That precisely sums up the dilemma. As one close observer of the Andersen/Spring Ram conflict said this week: "Don't forget on

whose behalf the auditors are appointed. Management hires the auditors, but they are there on behalf of the shareholders." This obviously creates its own stresses, but as the same observer said, "it is supposed to be a potentially uncomfortable relationship".

On this point there is much good sense in Coopers & Lybrand's response to the McFarlane report. Unlike the caustic niggles the English ICA provided, Coopers argues that McFarlane is "a timely and imaginative vision". And Coopers also provides a way in which future conflicts of the Spring Ram type could be alleviated.

"Through the report's reasonable wish to give added emphasis to the auditors' existing responsibility to report on the company's position to members of the company," says Coopers, "the importance of the role of directors and management as stewards for the shareholders and other stakeholders, and the related role of the auditors to review their stewardship, appears to have been seriously understood."

What Coopers goes on to suggest is that the APB should "explore a concept of audit which is based primarily on continued assurance to management, from which periodic reports to shareholders will naturally flow". In other words, if auditors keep bombarding directors with the facts, then there is a reasonable obligation that the directors should communicate their regularly to both shareholders and analysts.

The author is Associate Editor of Accountancy Age



ROBERT BRUCE

Telling attack on morning after

THE morning after responses were due to the Auditing Practices Board's report, *The Future Development of Auditing*, the profession's most persistent critics have published their radical alternative (Graham Searjeant writes).

Prem Sikka, who wrote *A Better Future for Auditing* with fellow academics Tony Puxty and Hugh Willmot and Austin Mitchell, MP, points out that it is twice as long, carries the same £7 price-tag but, unlike the thoughts of the APB working party, is printed at the authors' own expense.

The contents will be less welcome to big chartered accountancy firms. The APB's McFarlane report is damned as part of a long tradition of token gestures designed to disarm critics by pretending that everything is changing while little actually does.

The paper goes much further in several areas than the McFarlane suggestions. The crucial difference, however, is a call to ban provision of non-auditing services by auditors to their clients. The authors say this is anti-competitive, exploiting the profession's auditing monopoly, as well as compromising independence.

To explain the use of low-balling in audit tenders to obtain other work, they call on evidence from an American study. This found that companies pay more for non-audit services from their own auditors than if they buy the services from independents. If that were true in Britain, it would undermine the argument that isolating audit work would raise companies' costs.

The paper mounts a telling attack on the profession's disciplinary arrangements, citing the Jordan and Stone case and failures to act on criticism from DTI inspectors' reports. The authors want an "independent" body to regulate all aspects of accounting and auditing and urge civil action against firms criticised.

* Available from Accountancy Research Group, University of East London, Longbridge Road, Dagenham, RM8 2AS.

British is not necessarily best

By JOHN MACKAY

AS A chartered accountant practising in France, I was disturbed by the tone of "That strange world across the Channel" (February 18), which was based on the Focus on European Accounting produced by NatWest Securities. In summary, users were warned that "continental" financial statements were idiosyncratic and unreliable compared with the UK benchmark.

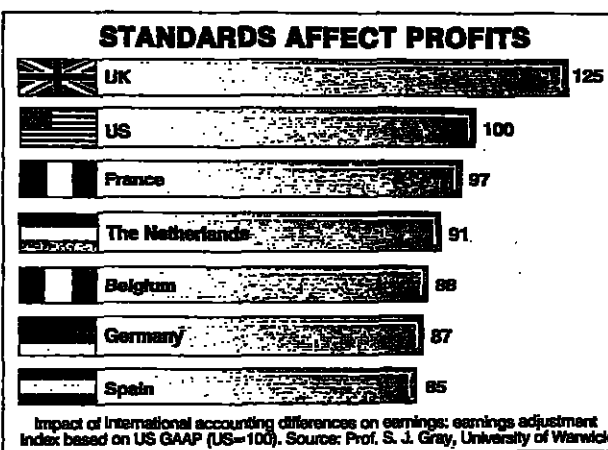
European directives have certainly failed to harmonise the substance of financial statements, but the UK can no longer be regarded as best practice. The NatWest study, which relied on the few unrepresentative European companies with American listings, showed that Spain, the "worst continental performer" disclosed earnings 15 per cent below US GAAP levels. UK companies' reported income exceeded US GAAP by 25 per cent, which I find more troublesome.

Criticism of French accounts seems to confuse individual company accounts, which are certified to accord with tax-influenced accounting regulations (as well as the Fourth Directive), and consolidated accounts. The latter permit a more economic presentation and only these can be used for any meaningful international comparison.

On specific issues:

□ **Valuation of fixed assets** The NatWest report states: "The norm of historical costs is complicated by various revaluations which have been allowed or even forced in some European countries." This is a strange comment, given that revaluation of fixed assets is commonplace in the UK and certainly more selective than in France, where the practice has largely ceased for more than ten years. Within the context of the historical cost model, it is hardly surprising that many balance sheets that appear out of date: this is a problem of financial analysis, not of reporting. International accounting standards permit revaluations only of entire classes of assets, not selectively as practised in Britain.

□ **Depreciation** Different NatWest argues: "Different practices are explained by the degree to which taxation regu-



lations determine accounting measurements." Accelerated tax-based depreciation is not permitted in consolidated accounts in France and the annual charge must represent the underlying economic use of the asset. There is no equivalent of the "investment properties" category created in the UK to avoid depreciation artificially, a further difference between UK practice and international accounting regulations.

□ **Intangible assets** In France, part of the purchase price of another company may be allocated to intangibles which are not amortised (brands, etc). This technique is, however, relatively recent and was imported from Britain, where this highly doubtful method originated and is more widespread.

Although, as NatWest found, Pinault-Printemps would have negative shareholders' funds if intangible assets were excluded from the balance sheet, the extent of this problem is much greater in Britain.

□ **Goodwill** Once again, the country out of line with international practice is the UK. In France, goodwill may not be deducted from reserves unless acquisitions are made by share issues.

□ **Extraordinary items** The pressure of the London Stock Exchange on earnings per share calculation has caused considerable abuse of extraordinary items in the UK. NatWest found that many items treated as "extraordinary" on the Continent would not be so treated under UK rules. What the survey fails to mention is the almost total

disregard for these rules by British companies, which have had recurring debts recorded as extraordinary, thereby forcing the issuance of FR53.

Financial reporting in France has progressed enormously in recent years. The quality of the best consolidated financial statements is in no way inferior to anything found in the UK. Fourteen French companies make reference to IAS regulations in their financial statements, against one in the UK.

A key difference is that financial reports of UK companies have achieved a relatively uniform level of presentation. In France the gap between the best and worst performers is wider, due mainly to the relatively recent introduction of consolidated financial statements. But the gap is being narrowed by active pressure from the authorities.

Understanding is not helped by grouping together rules and practice in the Continental countries as against the UK model, which has been so severely criticised in terms of both reporting standards and methods of standing setting.

Understanding European financial statements still requires country by country knowledge.

The author is Commissaire aux comptes with Ernst & Young, Paris

Pressure builds for reform of small company accounts

Ian Plaistowe, pictured right, finds a mood for change in regulation



THE argument has shifted from "whether?" to "when?" and "how?". With about three-quarters of the respondents to a paper by the Institute of Chartered Accountants calling for a change in the law that requires an audit for even the smallest companies, the pressure for reform has become overwhelming. The trade and industry department is believed to be sympathetic and the Chancellor's Budget speech confirmed that a consultation paper will be issued.

Reform yes, but what about the fine print? The Institute's council has to some extent avoided the issue, calling for "reform" and "appropriate legislation". In passing its consultation results to the DTI without detailed comment, the Institute has backed reform without seeking to reduce the DTI's options.

There are, however, plenty of clues in the consultation results. Abandoning the audit requirement for very small companies is not a popular option. The Institute's work-

ing party had suggested that companies with a turnover below the VAT registration threshold (then £36,600) should be taken out of the audit net, but only 37 per cent of the respondents backed this: most said that companies should be given the right to opt out of the statutory audit with shareholder agreement. This approach is designed to protect minority shareholders. More seriously, low turnover companies can have valuable assets that shareholders may wish to be subject to audit.

Giving companies up to a certain size the option to dispense with an audit is clearly favoured. Where the size limit should be drawn is more controversial. The working party suggested turnover of £300,000: the VAT cash accounting limit at the time. The advantage of the cash accounting limit is that it is established as a measurement criterion in one area of business life, so it does not involve a new definition. Also, it is a figure that many accountants and businessmen feel comfortable with as a definition of "small". Nevertheless, many thought it was too small. The most popular choice was to adopt the existing Companies Act definition of a small company, which has the advantage of bringing in not just turnover (now £2.3 million), but also balance sheet totals (£1.4 million) and number of employees (50). The overwhelming tenor of responses would be to accept a lower threshold if it were offered on a take-it-or-leave-it basis.

About 50 respondents

looked at whether there should be an alternative report to the audit report. Most called for a compulsory "compilation report" by an independent qualified accountant.

The details of a compilation report still need to be formalised. The Institute's consultation paper, though, set out some broad proposals. □ The accountant preparing the accounts should give a report on the work undertaken in relation to their preparation, making clear the degree of comfort or assurance that could be derived from the association of the firm's name with the accounts.

□ The report would not involve as much procedural work as a "limited assurance review", a form of near-audit common in, for example, the US. Such reviews would entail little less work than a full audit, and so fewer opportunities for cutting costs.

□ Compilation work could be based on the work currently undertaken by accountants in relation to the accounts of sole practitioners and traders.

Substituting a compilation report for the full audit should result in a significant cost saving for companies, perhaps as much as 40 per cent of current audit and accountancy bills. Reform should also benefit most accountants. There is, inevitably, a threat to income that is the corollary of savings for companies. But most accountants are optimistic they will be able to spend at least part of the time formerly spent on statutory audits in giving more useful financial advice to clients. The chance to get clear of the burden of Audit Regulation is also attractive.

Relating the statutory audit requirement for small companies will not solve all their problems. In the current recession it smacks of setting out the deckchairs while the iceberg looms. But reform is urgent and important. If the statutory audit is an unwieldy and unnecessary burden on small companies, however, then to suggest it can be overcome by reforms in other areas rather misses the point.

The author is president of The Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales

Accolade for Sir Brian Jenkins

ALL those dinners and functions have proved worthwhile for Sir Brian Jenkins, last year's Lord Mayor of London and a senior partner of Coopers & Lybrand, who has been awarded the 1993 Founding Societies Centenary Award for his contribution to the City and the accountancy profession. Sir Brian, former president of the English Institute, has done much to promote London's standing as a financial centre. He will receive the award at a dinner in Liverpool on May 20. Previous winners include Sir Kenneth Cork, Lord Benson, Sir Trevor Holdsworth and Sir

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Paul Girolami, chairman of Glaxo.

The brains

THE truth is out. Chartered accountants really are as bright as we always suspected. Two thirds of graduates who start training in the profession have first and upper second class honours degrees, against 55 per cent not long ago, according to the latest statistics from the English Institute. Out of an intake of 4,847 listed in *Education, Training and Student Salary Statistics* — 1991/92, published this week, nine out of ten were

graduates and the number of Oxbridge graduates increased from 436 to 467. Female students make up 37 per cent — and the number is rising. Starting salaries range from an £8,000 average in the North West to £13,500 in London.

Reference rebuff

SO much for those letters of reference. Just under half of UK managers are sceptical about references, according to a yet another survey by Robert Half, the prolific financial recruitment consultant. Managers in London are the most

sceptical, with 49 per cent unconvinced of the validity of the reference, compared with 44 per cent in Manchester and 35 per cent in Birmingham.

TWO heavyweights of the profession are teaming up to consider the role of chartered accountants in business. Ian Plaistowe, president of the English Institute, will address a meeting on April 15, led by Peter Davis, chairman of the Board for Chartered Accountants in Business and deputy chairman of Abbey National. The London Business Board and the young chartered accountants group of the London Society of Chartered Accountants are hosts.

JON ASHWORTH

Portfolio Plus

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6	Shorro	Building/Rd	
7	Chelmsford Ben	Bank/Disc	
8	Randome Ben	Finance/Land	
9	Stand Chart	Bank/Disc	
10	Core Furnish	Drugs/Pharm	
11	Concord	Food	
12	Road End	Electrical	
13	AR Food	Food	
14	Orford Ind	Electrical	
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17	TCG	Transport	
18	Quero	Paper/Print	
19	Eric Frings	Building/Rd	
20	West	Water	
21	Williams Hldg	Industrial	
22	Asse Ben Port	Transport	
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£1,000 MATCH THE SHARES
If you have ticked off your eighth share in our March The Shares game today claim your prize by telephoning 0254 53272 between 10.00am and 3.30pm (see the Sunday Times for full details)

There were no valid claims for yesterday's Portfolio Plus prize. The £4,000 will be added to today's game.

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Prices squeezed higher

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began March 29. Dealings end April 16. Settlement day April 19. Settlement day April 26. Forward margins are settled on two previous business days. Prices are quoted as at noon. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

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Veteran singer-organist
George Farnie, playing a
residency at Ronnie
Scott's Birmingham club

ARTS

THEATRE page 33
Hal Prince: The king of
musical producer-
directors is interviewed
by Valerie Grove



CINEMA: Geoff Brown on a Spanish masterwork. Beban Kidron, director of *Used People*, interviewed

Fruits of a long harvest

Still, watch, and wonder. This is not something many current films encourage you to do. But Victor Erice's *The Quince Tree Sun* is different. In place of bedlam, the Spanish director of *The Spirit of the Beehive* spreads calm. In place of a fictional plot's contortions, he tracks the progress of a distinguished painter, Antonio López, striving to capture, day after day, the morning sun shining on a quince tree in his Madrid garden.

López starts on September 30, 1990. Friends visit; Polish workers, renovating his house, pass to and fro. A plastic shelter covers painter and model from the rain. Pop classics and news bulletins sound from a transistor radio. When the days grow cold and the yellow fruit droops, he abandons the canvas and begins afresh in pencil. But whatever López does, the result on screen, caught in ravishing photography, is utterly magical.

Since López is a perfectionist and Erice's output is minute (three features in 20 years), the joke in Madrid was that *The Quince Tree Sun* would never get finished. By December 1990, López did indeed lose the battle against nature and packed up his easel as the tree withered; yet Erice still managed to wrest from his struggle a remarkable film. This is much more than a quasi-documentary on a painter at work, like Clouzot's *The Picasso Mystery*. For, quietly, steadily, Erice elevates López's

The Quince Tree Sun
Renoir, U
The Silent Touch
Curzon Mayfair, 15
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Jungle Book
MGM Haymarket and
Odeon Marble Arch, U
Mr Nanny
MGM Haymarket, PG
Splitting Heirs
Empire, 12

"nothing to write home about". There are just a few slow spots: the first encounter with fellow painter Enrique Gran, shot on video, could be trimmed with benefit. But if you relax, the film's slow rhythms prove generally hypnotic, and take you inside a painter's head in a way cinema very rarely attempts. Uplifting, rejuvenating, a bringer of peace: *The Quince Tree Sun* is the perfect film to herald spring.

Quite another artist lies at the centre of Krzysztof Zanussi's *The Silent Touch* — a British, Polish and Danish venture, and one of those rare European films that are actually worth watching. His name is Henry Kesel, an aging composer with ardour-garde tastes, a bad back and a ferocious temper, who has not written a note since the Holocaust taught him the pointlessness of music. Of course the man is imaginary; how could he be otherwise with Max von Sydow shaking the rafters, firing off aphorisms about art and old age?

Zanussi conceived the script some ten years ago as an entirely Polish affair. Had he followed through then, the film might well have been a dry intellectual drama to set beside *The Constant Factor* and *Illumination*. But he waited, and reworked the project to suit market forces. The result is his warmest, most approachable work, a fetching comic fable about the regenerative power of music and love. Two forces work to make



Work in progress: Antonio López, whose attempt to capture the light on a tree in his garden is the subject of Victor Erice's *The Quince Tree Sun*

Kesel emerge from his Danish retreat: the healing influence of Lorraine Bouteau's Polish music student, and an adoring Danish girl (Sofie Grabol) who works as Kesel's secretary. He begins writing a symphony, using a stabbing chordal theme that haunted Bouteau's dreams. Here Kesel gets help from Wojciech Kilar, esteemed composer of Polish film scores and Coppola's new *Dracula*, who builds the notes

into a fragrant compost of choral ballads and bashing hymns. Music, however, takes second place to relationships. Sarah Miles, as Kesel's protective wife, may bleat too much for comfort. But the assertive von Sydow and the laidback Bouteau weave their differing styles into a beguiling dance. And the ending, balancing life and death, touches the heart to a degree no Zanussi film has

managed before. Go and enjoy. In *Used People*, Shirley MacLaine spends almost two queasy hours deciding whether to marry Marcello Mastroianni. She is a Jewish matriarch of Queens, New York; he is Italian, greying but dapper, with an accent as fragrant as parmesan cheese. He makes his first move at her husband's funeral: he has worshipped from afar, he says, for 23 years. But MacLaine's hands are tied to a family that would now be described as dysfunctional, but in 1969, when the movie is set, seemed plain eccentric.

One daughter (Kathy Bates) is a shrinking frump; another (Marcia Gay Harden) shields herself from a domestic tragedy by living in fantasy. An aged parent and a bossy friend bicker continually in non sequiturs. Everybody talks; nobody listens. This is clearly a film for the older set, which in Hollywood terms means anyone over 25. Normally that would be good

news, but there is something so cloying about this life-affirming comedy-romance that the film sticks in the throat. British director Beban Kidron, who rose to fame with television productions such as *Oranges Are Not the Only Fruit*, survives the pressures of her first American venture, but has a tendency to poke when a nudge would do. The main problem, though, rests with the author Todd Graff. He based his script on his off-Broadway piece *The Grandma Plays* and you can smell the greasepaint in the dumps of set speeches, the lines that squeeze messy emotions into quotable phrases.

Getting used to calling the shots

On her first film, *Vroom* in 1988, Beban Kidron's mettle was sorely tested by an assistant director (male) who persisted in referring to her as "the little lady". By the third day of shooting she had had enough. In front of the whole crew she delivered an unladylike bawling-out. Later, in private, she fired him. "I have this rule on the set

Nick Smurthwaite meets the young, British director of *Used People*

that people have one day to be shocked, the next day to get over it, and on the third day we've got a film to make," she says. "If it's a problem for them that I'm a woman, or that I'm young, or whatever,

then they're not doing their job properly. I've done every single job on a film set apart from act."

Yet Kidron, who made her name in the television successes *Oranges Are Not the Only Fruit* and *Antonia and Jane*, claims she never intended to become a film director. "As a youngster I was far more influenced by writers, artists and photographers than film-makers. I was passionate about 19th-century novelists — Dickens, Zola, Tolstoy — all of whom dealt with the personal, the social and the political, weaving in and out. I was never a film buff. There are very few films I've seen more than once."



Beban Kidron says "I was never a film buff"

An operation at the age of 11 to correct a cleft palate left her speechless for a year, during which time she lost herself in literature and learnt how to use a camera. Two years later, on a family holiday in Portugal, she found herself caught up in the 1974 revolution and sold her pictures for publication. Her work came to the attention of the photographer Eve Arnold.

"She looked at my pictures in a way no one had ever looked at them before then offered me a job as her assistant on the spot. She roared with laughter when I told her I was going to be 14 the next day."

Arnold said she would re-

consider the offer in two years' time and Kidron left school at 16, with eight O levels, to work for the doyenne of photographic realism. This working relationship between experience and youth was to give Kidron a profound respect for the virtues of maturity without feeling threatened by it.

It is characteristic of Kidron's *chutzpah* that she chose to make her Hollywood debut not with a modest, low-budget affair, but with a very American, mainstream, star-studded £10 million movie. *Used People* (see review, above) divided the American

critics between, as Kidron sees it, the cynics and the romantics. They were, she says, the best and the worst reviews of her work to date.

Shirley MacLaine plays the recently widowed Pearl, now hotly pursued by Marcello Mastroianni's besotted suitor. Kidron persuaded MacLaine to take the role of a dispossessed Jewish matriarch by suggesting that she must have been Jewish in a previous life. "We got on well," says Kidron, "but I think she found me too intrusive at times. She said she'd had a dream in which she'd moved on a life, and I was still there."

Kidron's refusal to be intimidated by Hollywood impressed everyone. "I was just totally preoccupied with the process of making the film," she says breezily. "I didn't even realise I was making a Hollywood movie until it was over."

She had barely stepped off the plane home from Los Angeles before her next project, *Great Moments in Aviation*, reuniting her with writer Jeanette Winterson (*Oranges*) and producer Philippa Giles, went into production.

Like *Oranges*, it concerns a young woman's rite of passage, only this time she is black and en route for 1950s London from the Caribbean. Most of the £1.8 million budget has been put up by the BBC, and a deal with Miramax Films in New York ensures that the film will, like *Antonia and Jane*, be screened as a movie in the United States.

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react to *Spider Woman* on Broadway, after its false start in America in 1990. It first opened, in deliberate obscurity, in a university theatre in Westchester County in New York

I had often wondered how he and other directors felt about staged musicals "lost" in memory, while screen versions are preserved for posterity. "The quintessential stage musical cannot be filmed. The only film musical that was better than the stage piece in my estimation was *The Sound of Music*."

"But the uniqueness of the stage musical, the relationship of performers and audience, the use of imagination, is lost on screen. We make some magic with a trap and a little bit of dry ice. In a movie Gene Kelly dances, and in a laboratory somewhere else they make him dance in the sky."

"We had an idea," explains Prince. "With difficult material, we thought, wouldn't it be good if you could make your mistakes and fix them, before you showed it to the critics? This was not necessary 30 years ago when costs were low. We could open in New Haven or Boston where it was almost invariably slated — even *The King and I* was, and *Oklahoma* — and you'd fix them. The New York press didn't report what happened out of town."

"Now, if you open anywhere in something that costs \$8 million, that's news. 'There's an \$8m disaster in Boston'. You can't work under those circumstances." In the event, not only did Frank Rich cover the show but Clive Barnes covered it too; and savaged it: The show was rescued and played in Toronto before arriving in London last October.

Since then it has won the *Evening Standard* Award for Best Musical; it has also been nominated for five Olivier awards, including a nomination for Prince as best director of a musical.

"And if it does as well in New York and wins awards and people realise what we've been through in the five years it's taken to get there, we'll have proved a need for just such a theatre, where you can produce a musical far from criticism."

Next, Prince directs the original 1970 cast of *Company*, intact but for one member, in a New York Aids benefit. Later this year, while also directing a new *Show Boat*, he will be back in Britain to cast another *Phantom* in Manchester.

He turned 65 in January, consoled by the fact that the generation above him seems to live for ever. "George Abbott [the director-manager] is 106! Last week I walked into his living room in Miami and he had a butcher board across his knees. I said, 'What are you doing George?' and he said 'I'm rewriting *Damn Yankees*. Isn't that good?'"

● Kiss of the Spider Woman continues at the Shaftesbury Theatre (071-379 5399)

The musicals (or "musical theatre" as he prefers) he has been associated with for 40 years tend to have strong, tragic themes: *West Side Story*, *Fiddler on the Roof*, *Zorba*, *Cabaret*, *Evita*. He has always maintained that opera was merely the musical theatre of its day and that the two forms, once poles apart, have lately merged: "and that's fine by me."

What brought him back to the Shaftesbury Theatre was the task of rehearsing a completely new cast for kids of the *Spider Woman*, a troupe that the original London cast has moved on to Broadway, where they open on May 3. "I am a grandmotherly spider staged," he has been chosen by 850 Saga (over 60s) holiday-makers for their Christmas treat this year. "So much for the view that musical audiences seek only relaxation and escapism; entertainment of the trivial, cheering sort. "Escape just

means joining another world," Prince says, "and that can be a very serious world."

Brendel: brilliance combined with intellectual rigour

There were vivid colours in plenty from the outside orchestra for Strauss, as there were in the subtler textures of Wagner. In the first part of the programme, concerned with a generous body of strings alone, the players worked hard to infuse some purpose into one of the strangest examples of gilding a musical lily: Mahler's suggested orchestration of *Schubert's D minor String Quartet* ("Death and the Maiden"). The question it poses is whether there is some point in inflating a string quartet to near-symphonic dimensions and despite a seldom convincing.

Alfred Brendel's historical excursion through the piano concerto repertory, in programmes with the Philharmonia, has arrived at Schumann, with later stages to follow in the autumn. The high romantic tide that Schumann represents, however, was here subsumed in an unusual degree of intellectual rigour to complement the assured brilliance of the keyboard playing which, in the finale particularly, acquired an almost Brahmsian symphonic character.

Immediately afterwards, on the platform, Brendel became the newest recipient of Britain's highest professional musical award, the Gold Medal of the Royal Philharmonic Society, presented to him by the present senior medallist, Sir Yehudi Menuhin.

Schorrwandt prefaced the concert with Sir Harrison Birtwistle's *Nomos*, a BBC commission for the 1968 Proms. Its intricate structure ideally needs more resonance than this hall could offer, but the orchestral playing was keenly attuned to the work's recurrent block writing, and later expanded to a splendid breadth and intensity for the First Symphony by Sibelius. Schorrwandt did more than develop its romantic fervour, he laid out the constituent parts of each movement with a vivid clarity as he wove them strongly together.

NOEL GOODWIN



Hal Prince: The musicals (or "musical theatre" as he prefers) he has been associated with for 40 years tend to have strong, tragic themes. "Escape just means joining another world," he says, "and that can be a very serious world"

The Royal Opera's long run of successes stutters to a halt with this revival of *Fidelio*. Patrick Young has made multiple changes to Adolf Dresen's 1990 production, not all for the better. Dresen came in for quite a lot of attack, but the real villainess may well be his designer, Margit Bardy. Her box-like sets look even less prepossessing the second time round. *They have now been stripped of the little character they had.*

Apart from Jaquino (an attractively gauche character from Lyndon Atkinson) the cast is new to the production, although for the most part experienced *Fidelio* hands elsewhere. Kurt Rydl, in a belated house debut, is a most assured and pragmatic Rocco, swaying with the political winds blowing around his Seville prison. Willard White's warm tones and friendly mien made him strange casting for Pizarro.

Josephine Barstow's first concert, Gordon Leoneore showed its strength once "Abscheulichster" was over. Her soprano declined to soar during the plea for hope, but when reunited with Florestan, Barstow seemed much relieved and revealed why she is so admired in the part. Pizarro's political prisoner was to have been Josef Protchka, who stepped in at short notice when the production was new. This time Reiner Goldberg did the stepping in for an absent Protchka. His tone now carries some of the hardness of seasoned wood, but Goldberg knows well how to reduce the pressure on a voice that has been worked hard over the years. His Florestan may lack nobility, but it does have resilience and conviction.

The home team provided a winning Marzelline (Gillian Webster) and a Don Fernando (Mark Beesley) needing more authority. The prisoners raised a heart-felt chorus. Jeffrey Tate in the pit had one of his introspective evenings, opting for slow tempi and reluctant to go along with the final spirit of rejoicing.

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How to make up the future

Historians are no more useful as prophets than tipsters, says Donald Cameron Watt

Paul Kennedy, the Geordie Wunderkind author of the most widely translated book of history in recent years, *The Rise and Fall of the Great Powers*, migrated from the University of East Anglia to Yale in the 1980s.

He clearly believes in living dangerously. About the only infallible rule governing the writing of history is that historians are not better prophets than racing tipsters or, for that matter, economic forecasters in the Treasury. Historians used to believe that the physical sciences had discovered laws which enabled the prediction of events, and that a proper application of Marxism, or some other comparable nostrum generated by the social sciences, could lead to history becoming a "hard" science. Only the French *Annalistes* and Cromagnon-Man academic Marxists hold that specific belief now. But the mind-set engendered by such creeds takes longer to disappear.

The second problem historians face is the illusion of inevitability produced by that ultimate deceiver, the passage of time. Crudely put, we all believe that — within limits set by society, geography and so on — we have a choice in what we do, up to the point where we make the choice and act (or abstain from action). Immediately thereafter, however, we adopt a theory of causation by which our choice is made to seem both inevitable, totally determined by identifiable factors, and, therefore, predictable. Kennedy is far too good a historian, and far too learned, to believe this himself. But he does

believe that the great external impersonal historical factors set the agenda for our choices, and nudge us one way rather than in another. He has demonstrated this in some of his earlier "for historians' eyes only" works before his last book made him a world television pundit and a target for the instant guru creation brigade within the world media. There is therefore a danger that some of his readers may be misled. Some of his reviewers certainly have been.

Among his British colleagues, before his translation to Yale, Kennedy was most admired for his ability to synthesise and refurbish a generation of research in most of the major European languages on 19th-century international politics. He has now turned this skill (so effectively displayed in his *Rise and Fall*) to the developments of the 1970s and 1980s as a key perceiving the shape of things to come in the next century.

Kennedy is trying, as he tells us in his preface, to write "large history", identifying the great impersonal factors with which policy makers will have to cope in the first decades of the next century. Among these are global warming; the "green revolution" in agriculture; the development of bio-technology; the runaway population explosion in the Third World; the advent of the automated robotic factory; the communications revolution; and the dichotomy between ever more particularist political nationalisms and ever more globalised multi-national economic and financial mega-co-operations. He has then gone beyond this to



"If you want a picture of the future, imagine a boot stamping on a human face — for ever." (George Orwell). This picture, *Waiting for the WRVS to arrive with lunch* (1986), is taken from a vivid collection of 1980s photography by Peter Marlow, *Liverpool: Looking out to Sea* (introduced by Ian Jack, Jonathan Cape, £35/£20 pbk)

produce studies of how he feels the major and minor powers in the world today are preparing, or failing to prepare, to meet these challenges. He concludes that "whereas many individuals and firms seem well positioned for the 21st century, relatively few nations appear to be". His chosen few include Japan, Korea and other south-east Asian nations, Germany, Switzerland, some of the Scandinavian countries and perhaps the EC. But he is not wildly enthusiastic about any of these states, because of the universality and long-term nature of the problems of population growth, exhaustion of resources, environmental

damage and the stresses that these may be expected to set up between states. Kennedy can be attacked, and will be, for the conventionality of much of his analysis, and for the failure to make predictions he is too good a historian to be trapped into making. The first accusation is the most unfair. Kennedy is a synthesist. What he has produced is a synthesis of 30 or more years of quayside apocalyptic work by futurologists and doom-sayers. He is not to blame for their inadequacies. Where he is perhaps more vulnerable to criticism, as they are, is in his attempts to make historical predictions about the future effects of

these factors, when we have so little real historical work on how these factors, none of which are entirely new, have effected events or policy makers in the past. As racing tipsters in fact, we have no real form books to guide us. Nevertheless he has, by a prodigious piece of work, produced a draft edition of a new *Ruff's Guide to the Turf* for the next four decades. He deserves to be read, he deserves to be challenged, he deserves to be taken with the utmost seriousness. But above all he deserves to be thanked for his courage in stepping in to a field hitherto largely occupied by single-issue maniacs and pedlars of universal nostrum.

No daylight let in upon magic

Ian McIntyre

ROYAL THRONE
The Future of the
Monarchy
By Elizabeth Longford
Hodder & Stoughton, £16.99

Lady Longford has probably forgotten more about the House of Windsor than the entire royal ratpack ever knew. She discloses in this latest book that if she had not read Lytton Strachey's *Queen Victoria*, politics would have carried her "into some kind of republicanism". She also recalls that when she first stood for Parliament as a Labour candidate (in 1935) she favoured abolishing the House of Lords.

That would have been a blow to the gaiety of the nation, because it could have deprived us of her husband Frank — to whom, with the other forty-four members of the Longford clan, this book is dedicated. His contribution was to go out each morning and buy armfuls of tabloids. "They're for my wife," he would explain if he encountered old-fashioned looks. (But why should he?)

Lady Longford's list of acknowledgements is impressively catholic — from Nigel Dempster to Lord St John of Fawley, from Mary, Duchess of Roxburghe to Robert Worcester of MORI, from the press counsellor at the Danish Embassy to her son-in-law Harold Pinter. The latter's contribution is a not entirely comprehensible anecdote about the Monarch performing the opening ceremony at an arts centre in the East End named after him: "And quite right too," said HM the Queen, pinteresquely.

It is about the Queen that the author writes most perceptively, noting her admiration for order and her calmness — "the very opposite to hysteria or any illness described as 'nervosa'," she adds cuttingly. Elizabeth Longford's strictures on the Princess of Wales are not less devastating for being obliquely expressed: "Her public took pleasure in building up her gifts into quasi-supernatural powers, so that some people began to feel they were at Lourdes, or some such healing shrine. Queen Victoria maintained a better perspective on this kind of royal magic."

The main business of this short book is to consider what, if anything, can take the place of the rules that applied in Victoria's day. Lady Longford writes drily that she does not exclude the possibility that the Great Queen's Rule Number 1 — exemplary royal behaviour — may still have its advantages. She sets her enquiry in historical perspective by reviewing the matrimonial success rate among Victoria's own children, concluding that marriages arranged by and for those who know the rules are likely to succeed. Princess Beatrice's short marriage, to Henry (Liko) of Battenburg, she reminds us, was neither arranged nor happy. "Perhaps fortunately," she reflects briskly, "Liko's early death from fever while on the Ashanti expedition prevented possible infidelities from developing."

Lady Longford concedes that the royal line is not remarkable for the superior quality of individual sovereigns: "We have got to make room for usurpers, adulterers, drunkards, gamblers, a carrier of haemophilia, and perhaps a porphyriac and maybe a syphilitic." Eadwig, she

reminds us, quitted his Coronation banquet for the company of whores. Three of his successors had male favourites. William IV produced ten children by an actress before entering into a marriage of convenience which failed to ensure the succession. The Duchess of York — Lady Longford writes coldly of her "troics" — is clearly no more than a novice.

By Lady Longford's normal standards, this is very much an "instant" book. She began work on it only last May. Never before, she writes, has she had to construct a volume in which the raw material "suddenly slid away from under my hand or alternatively came pouring in from unsuspected sources".

From some sources she has allowed material to flow rather too freely. Of the 19 pages in the chapter on royal taxes, for example, eight are effectively lifted from *Hansard*. That does not rate as particularly strenuous research.

There is more padding when she analyses two speeches Prince Charles made in the Lords. Do we really want to be reminded of the

heir to the throne's view (in the 1970s) that the British learn too little from abroad — "notably from Holland" — about coordinating their leisure? Lady Longford is mildly critical of the Prince because of a seeming contradiction between his views on organic farming and his devotion to field sports. ("Why does Mother Nature need bang bang but not spray spray?"). She clearly admires him greatly, however, and believes he resembles the Prince Consort more closely than does any other of Albert's descendants.

Lady Longford urges the repeal of the Act of Settlement and of the Royal Marriages Act. Some of her other ideas are less compelling. Her proposals for a degree of "Scandinavianisation" have about as much appeal as the prime minister's recent tinkering with the honours system. Nor is it self-evident that the appearance of a number of black faces in the upper reaches of the royal secretariat would modernise the institution.

Her recent intensive exposure to the popular press has slightly blunted Lady Longford's appreciation of the shades of the political spectrum. Dennis Skinner and Tony Benn are certainly both left-wingers, but that is a fairly loose description of the likes of Douglas Houghton and Roy Jenkins. Who cares? She has come up with a genial and poetic idea for the humane disposal of all tabloid palace-watchers. If only, she muses, Prince Charles could persuade them to follow him to Mount Lochnagar — "where, like the Brunswick rats, they would vanish inside never to be seen again." Selah.

Our first strange and fatal interviewer

Robin Day and I have been friends for 30 years. With affection I have heard this tough but innocent and vulnerable man in the studio and in my dining room loudly and passionately questioning after truth. Like Voltaire's Candide, he has sometimes been astonished when he's got it and not always noticed when he hasn't.

A natural habitat of the Age of Reason, Day consciously contemplates an interviewee objectively. His role is not to accuse, condemn or belittle but to put firmly and fairly the relevant questions. The answers form the opinions of the jury of viewers and theirs is the partisanship. For each of those who tune that he let off too lightly Macmillan, Heath, Callaghan, Kinnock, Mrs Thatcher or whomsoever, there is another delighted that he exposed them so effectively.

Day is not for or against. He gives his subjects equal opportunity to shine and it is their fault if they miff it, not his. This is the antithesis of the prevailing approach of most interviewers on radio or TV. Though their official codes decree otherwise their victims are often convicted before the trial begins whereupon slanted and deliberately misleading evidence is insidiously presented and the criminal is superciliously and sneeringly abjured not to interrupt but to confess. This style of Chinese people's court trial appeals to many whose busy lives prevent them

having more than slight acquaintance with the topic in hand. To others it seems patronising mind-washing of those looked down on as proles by the grand gentlemen and ladies broadcasting from on high. To query their verdicts would be presumptuous indeed.

I prefer the Day style of which Reith would have approved and which the formidable Grace Wyndham-Gouldie (who should have been BBC director-general) instilled in all connected with current affairs

Woodrow Wyatt

BUT WITH RESPECT
By Sir Robin Day
Weidenfeld & Nicolson, £17.99

programmes. Impartiality is not merely an act of Parliament duty but a moral one. Incompetent broadcasters protest that it is the father of dullness. The skilled, like Robin Day, demonstrate that vig-

orous argument and questioning embracing differing views fairly represented is more illuminating and entertaining than programmes manipulated to a predestined impression by those abusing their power.

That is why it became so important to politicians to be interviewed by Day. Macmillan said plaintively to me one day in Dorset Square: "They have other politicians on the television all the time. They never ask me." "Perhaps they're shy to

You should let them know you'd like to go on". His no-holds-barred interview with Robin Day on ITN was the first ever by a prime minister and was a sensation.

Thereafter leading politicians clamoured to be interviewed. Some did well, others badly, as this selection shows. All revealed their characters. Macmillan put on his phoney grand statesman act. Alec Douglas-Home, briefly PM, came across as honest and more capable than generally supposed. Callaghan, not long after succeeding Wilson as PM, was already on the run.

Margaret Thatcher, in two interviews as PM, characteristically insisted on answering her own questions rather than Day's, with some success. John Major, during the 1992 election campaign which nearly all, possibly including himself, thought he would lose, emerged as a mixture of idealism and pragmatism. Neil Kinnock, in the same campaign, was confident of winning on the surface but you could sense the doubts creeping in.

It might be thought that printing the texts of old interviews would be a stale exercise, but they are lively vignettes of British political history. Some of Day's opinions of those he interviews may seem off-beam, but that one is able to differ from him shows how admirably and reasonably he probes. This book should have a long life, as I hope its begetter will on our screens.



Candid man: Day conducted the first television interview with a prime minister (Macmillan)

A hateful holiday

Tania Glyde

THE LAST GUESTS
OF THE SEASON
By Sue Gee
Century, £14.99

Initially this story seems tiresomely familiar. Nice middle-class people (with their English degrees and endless round of schools runs and dull spaghetti nights) are juddered by a bit of a trauma on holiday. But there is a nastier taste at the end. Bouncy Claire and kind Robert are a couple with two children. Claire was at university with Frances, clever and secretive. They meet again in the supermarket, and Claire invites Frances and her family to a rented house in Portugal.

There is a difficult atmosphere from the start. The author describes the pretty house and rustic garden perfectly, but starving cats and shuddered farm animals are never far away. There are alcoholic stormings-off and misread affections. The adults behave like children: the children respond accordingly. Tom, Frances's young

son, is deeply unhappy. His father, Oliver, is cool and distant. Frances finally reveals her secret life to Claire. She has for years had an undeciphered passion for another woman which fills her days to the exclusion of her family.

What gives this book its edge is the middle-class malaise that pervades it. Frances is a sad advertisement for a lot of things. If she really is a lesbian, why didn't she do something about it instead of ruining her family life with her private misery? If not, it is terrible that she has thrown her life away.

That so much can be interpreted from a sequence of simple events proves the quality of this book. There are flaws: accounts of administrative arrangements are only just outnumbered by sensuous evocations. However, most people's lives are so uneventful that daily human hurts, such as unrequited love or the despair of growing up, become lifelong tragedies if not remedied. Sue Gee is keenly aware of this.

Survival of the wittiest

J. W. M. Thompson

SKETCHES FROM
A LIFE
By Anne Scott-James
Michael Joseph, £14.99

This enjoyable autobiography takes the form of letters written to her daughter, who works in television, by a distinguished woman journalist, who describes herself as "one of the first generation of career girls". Anne Scott-James left Oxford in the early 1930s to try to establish a career for herself — not easy in the depths of a depression. These letters tell how she fared over the years: very well, in fact, progressing from salesgirl at Harrods to a lowly job on *Vogue* (obtained by a mendacious claim to knitting skills) and then ascending successive rungs on the journalistic ladder as magazine editor, newspaper columnist, and author of numerous books.

She had abandoned philosophy at Oxford because, she explains, "I am a worldly person, loving people and places and art, but never happy wandering about in a maze of abstract ideas." Therein, evidently, lies the secret of her success in her chosen kind of journalism. Anne Scott-James is endlessly interested in other people and in what is going on in the world. She is also careful not to let her own presence become over-intrusive.

The result, touched with humour as it is, makes consistently entertaining reading. Her memories range from middle-class childhood in between-the-wars London (a very different city from today's), through wartime years on *Picture Post*, to her travels and adventures as a star

columnist. The danger with this kind of autobiography is that it can look too much like warmed-up press cuttings, but she avoids it by limiting herself to what she can remember and what she was an interviewer of the famous long before the fashion for the killer interview arrived (Nancy Mitford told her, kindly, "You have U legs").

And of course there is her private life: three husbands, one in a wartime marriage so brief that it seems to have eluded *Who's Who*; then the journalist Macdonald Hastings; and lastly Osbert Lancaster. All this is related with a proper blend of candour and restraint. From the second of these marriages came not only the daughter to whom this book is addressed but

also the present editor-in-chief of the *Telegraph* newspapers, of whose youth we are afforded a stirring glimpse. At the age of 15, so his mother reports, Max Hastings grew so excited while watching a western on television that he whipped out a revolver and shot the set to smithereens.

Apart from such dramatic moments, the problems of combining a job with motherhood were no easier for this first-generation career woman than for her successors. In the Hastings household a benevolent but autocratic nanny "ruled the family for 20 years". It is almost startling to read, on the last page of this lively and buoyant narrative, that the author is in her eightieth year. "If I had concentrated my energies," she writes, "I might have reached higher goals, but I wouldn't have had such varied experiences or so much fun."

Marriage with Osbert Lancaster was obviously an important part of the fun and she gives a discerning picture of that witty and many-talented man. A continuing source of pleasure in her life has been gardening, both as practised at her country cottage (bought for £400 in 1938) and as a subject for her books. On this as on other things she writes with cool humour and warm appreciation. At the end one feels one is concluding a civilised conversation with an agreeable companion. It is that sort of book, by that sort of writer.

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سكوت جيمس

Poet hands on misery to man

Larkin famously blamed his parents, but Peter Ackroyd learns from a new biography how his own rancour used up his talent

It was no doubt predictable that the childhood of Philip Larkin should be spent in an atmosphere of nervous gloom: it was middle-class middle England with a vengeance, except that his respectable suburban house in Coventry was dominated by a father who kept a statue of Hitler on his mantelpiece.

In an unfinished passage of autobiography Larkin wrote that his family was "dull, pot-bound and slightly mad" and, from Andrew Motion's own account, there is no doubt that the elder Larkin was a bitter and frustrated man who poured all his thwarted energy and repressed mania upon his son — the son who began unpromisingly enough with his worship of D.H. Lawrence and eventually descended into a maelstrom of bigotry. There is something dark, and sour, about such an upbringing; it smacks of the concealment and angry frustration which haunted the poet for the rest of his life.

By the time he arrived at Oxford, he had begun to develop that carapace of wilful ordinariness which he was to carry with him everywhere. Originally it seems to have been a facetious way of pricking literary pretentiousness, in an era when poetic rhetoric was at a premium, but in the end it became a rancid and insidious philistinism which was to do him enormous damage. He did once possess enthusiasm, and even forcefulness, but they were soon lost beneath his suburban cynicism: they were the treasures he once possessed but, in later life, he could not remember where he had buried them.

The only thing that saved him, at Oxford and elsewhere, was his sense of humour. While still a student he wrote lesbian novels under the name of Brunette Coleman, and Motion suggests that in this period he began tentatively to act upon homosexual impulses. In the preface to a booklet of poems, *Sugar and Spice* Larkin noted that "I dedicate this slim volume to all my sister-writers", but Motion is good at seizing on the psychological truth behind such jokes.

Nothing ever came of his diffi-

dent homosexuality, and in fact nothing really ever came of anything. Already, in his early twenties, he was measuring himself for the life he was obliged, by temperament and circumstance, to lead — "blocked and inert", as Motion puts it, "a life of compromise". When he attended his first job interview, for the post of librarian somewhere in Shropshire, he carried with him through the rain a copy of *The Public Library System of Great Britain*.

In small gestures like that, one's fate is sealed. From this time forward, in fact, he began to rehearse that drab monologue of misery and self-pity which was to fill his letters and poems. Even Motion's intelligent commentary cannot rescue Larkin from the taint

PHILIP LARKIN
A Writer's Life
By Andrew Motion
Faber £20

of an insipid and self-imposed greyness — "the instinct for misery" may have become "the authority of sadness", as he puts it, but the effect is the same upon the reader.

He took up a post as librarian at Hull University in 1955 (the Brynmor Jones Library there may well turn out to be his most significant and certainly most enduring achievement), and in the same year he attained his first success with the publication of *The Less Deceived*. But his literary reputation served only to make him more self-indulgent; he began to parade his more unfortunate prejudices as if his fame, modest though it was, gave him a licence to do so.

In later life he pretended to dislike his public position, but Motion's account makes it clear that he loved every minute of it: it allowed him to be as mean and as boorish as he wished, and in the process he created an artistic "personality" as grotesque as anything conjured up by Edith Sitwell. He became secretive, self-obsessed and always plaintive, while his "love-life" (if it can be so described) was a

paradigm of indecision and deceit. If there is a mistake of emphasis in this otherwise well-balanced biography, in fact it is the extent to which Motion dwells upon affairs which are really only of concern to the people involved. It might be said in extenuation, however, that for much of Larkin's life there is very little else to write about.

This is an exemplary biography of its kind — detailed, meticulous, and sympathetic. In certain respects it might even be seen as too sympathetic, since in his introduction Motion claims that Larkin is "one of the great poets of the century". In adolescence Larkin proclaimed himself a "genius", too, but produced very little subsequent evidence to justify the title. Far from being a natural genius confined and cramped by circumstance, as some people might assume, he made a small talent go a very long way indeed. He is in the same mould as Martin Tupper and Robert Service — essentially a minor poet who, for purely local and temporary reasons, acquired a large reputation.

Perhaps, in the end, he realised as much himself. He had adopted the manner of an old man while he was still in his fifties and it seems that, as far as he was concerned, his life was over before it had begun. Of course he had picked up honours and decorations along the way, and could on occasions still exhibit that icy humour which is the revenge of the mild-mannered man against the world, but he continually complained about his "aimless life" and often lapsed into what Motion calls "a drink-sodden depression". His was a minor talent which exhausted itself too soon, leaving only a few slim volumes as a memento.

There was a brief controversy last year about Larkin's more unfortunate obsessions, but they hardly matter. Of course you do not have to be a master of political correctness to realise that, by the end of his life, he had become a foul-mouthed bigot: that does not necessarily prevent anyone from being a great poet as well, but in Larkin's case no such consolation was ever available.



"Life is first boredom, then fear": Larkin the librarian became a great poet of suburban cynicism

Philip Marlowe — or Kit?

Eric Griffiths

CHRISTOFERUS
or Tom Kyd's Revenge
By Robin Chapman
Sinclair-Stevenson, £14.99

Christoferus is an ideal novel for the sort of person who watches BBC classic dramas in the hope of spotting anachronistic objects which the production team forgot to conceal — the satellite-dish peeking through shrubbery. It is a John le Carré of intrigue and betrayed friendships set in the reign of Elizabeth I, a time, it seems, as self-consciously bleak and harrowed as our own. Robin Chapman drums up the usual cast of smoothies, upper-class women who appear nice but turn out to have weird sexual appetites, drunks, queers, thoroughly decent, dim women who supply physical comfort, and a flawed, eloquently remorseful hero.

The formulaic nature of the story has a soothing charm which is the opposite of suspenseful. A reader is kept guessing, though: guessing how the author will next reveal his ignorance of historical period. The book is not a whodunit but a wholet-him-get-away-with-murdering-it-so-terribly.

Christopher Marlowe, the playwright of the novel's title, maintains "spluttering with laughter", that "a run ought really to punish you". This fictional Marlowe is easily amused and ahead of his time: "pun" did not exist in English during the historical Marlowe's short day. Nor did "hippogriff", "solar plexus", "candelabra", "enema", "rondo", and "tory" — to name a few things which characters in *Christoferus* should not have said. They should not have eaten chocolate, nor have heard of Cinderella, nor used blank cartridges, nor drunk fizzy champagne.

Chapman calls his narrator Thomas Kyd and supposes him to have written the plays attributed to the Elizabethan of that name. Kyd was not the brainiest man of the late 16th century, but he could tell the difference between one line of blank verse and two lines of blank verse, as this narrator cannot. Having been educated in Latin, as all boys educated at all then were, he would not have misused the phrase *sui generis*, nor would he have believed that "spattering our scenes with Latin tags" could gain dramatists a name for erudition. Kyd had coarse tastes, certainly, but even he would have tired of the relentless alliteration which masquerades as vivid style in these pages: "my raped and rifled papers", "lizard lasciviously", "tortoise tedium", "An elegiac caesura slid between us to make a silver silence". What rot.

There is an odd fond for historical-fiction nowadays, "odd" because this enthusiasm of advanced novelists goes along with the belief that there are no objective truths, no facts, but only endless, various ways of telling stories, none of which can be checked against anything. If history is nothing but fiction, it must be a waste of time to try to write historical novels. And yet for a modern novel it is *chic* to be dated. Authors and readers make believe that shades of the past — dead seafarers, architects, poets — had a hand in the narrative. Really arty works aim to seem entirely ghost-written.

Perhaps the authors wish they and their works, like the past in their opinion, had never existed. That is a poignant but self-defeating wish, and one which, reading efforts like *Christoferus*, you sympathise with.

Philosopher of consolation

Daniel Johnson

THE ACHIEVEMENT
OF MICHAEL
OAKESHOTT
Edited by Jesse Norman
Duckworth, £20

Among those who study and teach political science, I suppose that a majority has scarcely heard of the late Michael Oakeshott, much less read the half-dozen or so volumes in which are sublimated his 60 years and more of philosophical reflection. A small but growing minority of dons (and many intellectuals outside the universities) are aware of Oakeshott's great and original contributions to the theory of politics and history, for he was perhaps the most important conservative thinker since Burke. He died, aged 89, less than three years ago, having received no honours from the state he did such service. Long before Mrs Thatcher, he resisted the prevailing corporatist, managerial manner in which Britain was governed during the 1950s and 1960s when he was head of the department of government at the London School of Economics. We must await the biography by his literary executor, Shirley Robin Letwin.

In the meantime, those who revere Oakeshott's memory will enjoy a slim but pithy assemblage of tributes by some of his colleagues and friends. Though several of these pieces overlap and one or two are perhaps too slight to have deserved re-publication in book form, the value of Jesse Norman's volume is greatly enhanced by the first comprehensive bibliography to incorporate both Oakeshott's own writings and the secondary litera-

honour, reports Jeffrey Hart, he heard the octogenarian philosopher whisper to a pretty young woman: "Just call me Mickey."

Oakeshott was certainly drawn to medieval Catholicism, but one can guess what such an unpretentious man might have thought of his local parish, who apparently compared him at his funeral to St Francis. He drove an MG, but disdained the typewriter, the television and until late in life the telephone; he told Russell Price that in Cambridge he had never used a watch. Though a truly cosmopolitan intellectual — one of the few British philosophers of his generation to study in Germany during the 1920s — Oakeshott was quite unpompous about it: he wrote a book about horse-racing and was an enthusiastic gardener and cook. In retirement he moved from his spartan flat in Covent Garden to an unheated cottage in Devon; the first sign that he was ill came only a few days before his death, when he failed to rise to make the fire in the morning. He had spared his wife the truth about his cancer.

He had the erudition, urbanity

and good manners of an earlier age: the self-important loquaciousness of the modern academic celebrity seems to have been alien to him. Sir Peregrine Worsthorne shared a tent with Oakeshott during the war for six months, and by his own account scarcely drew breath, while the older man listened patiently to his half-baked theorising. Returning to Cambridge after the war, Worsthorne was horrified to discover that his long-suffering comrade was the famous philosopher.

On Oakeshott's thought, the best of these essays are those by his colleague at the LSE, Kenneth Minogue, and one by the American scholar Timothy Fuller, who has also re-edited one of Oakeshott's best books, *Rationalism in Politics* (Liberty Press, distributed in Britain by Pickering and Chatto, £20/£7.95 pbk). This handsome edition adds to the original 1962 volume six more essays, including one previously unpublished piece on "Political Discourse". The latter is a typically closely reasoned discussion, couched in a more luminous terminology than that of modern linguistic philosophy, of the dangers of "demonstrative political argument". The fact that Oakeshott lived to witness the downfall of the most conspicuous example of an attempt to turn politics into a science, Marxism, must have caused him great satisfaction.



Oakeshott: the unmatched form and figure of blown youth

Writing on borrowed time

Stephen Davy

CHANGE THE NAME
By Anna Kavan
Peter Owen, £15.50
THE CASE OF
ANNA KAVAN
A Biography
By David Callard
Peter Owen, £16.95

Hailed by some critics as de Quincey's heir, the heroin addict Anna Kavan is now reprinted to capture the vogue for drug-influenced literature. Though her habits align her with Kerouac, Kavan's affinities on paper are with Kafka. A nihilist, not a visionary, she writes of repression, not abandon: of the self at the mercy of society.

Kavan neither glamourised nor agonised over heroin. Both she and her doctor saw it as a tiresome but necessary habit that kept suicide at bay. It was part and parcel of her life, along with increasingly antisocial behaviour, self-absorption, and the inability to form deep relationships with either lovers or her children. Gradually she cut off from the world, surrounding herself with a group of admirers, mostly homosexual men, who protected her from unwelcome attention in particular and from the demands of the world in general.

The psychological root of Kavan's addiction is uncertain. Manic-depression may have been the only bond with an otherwise absentee father, nurtured through an emotionally sterile childhood, to run wild in animosity towards and dependence upon a glamorous and remote mother. Fleeing to the heady lethargy of the south of France from an icy and neurotic first marriage, getting wasted seemed the perfect way to banish life's "hateful and tiresome dream". Brief regulating periods of detoxification apart, Kavan continued to take heroin until her death in 1968

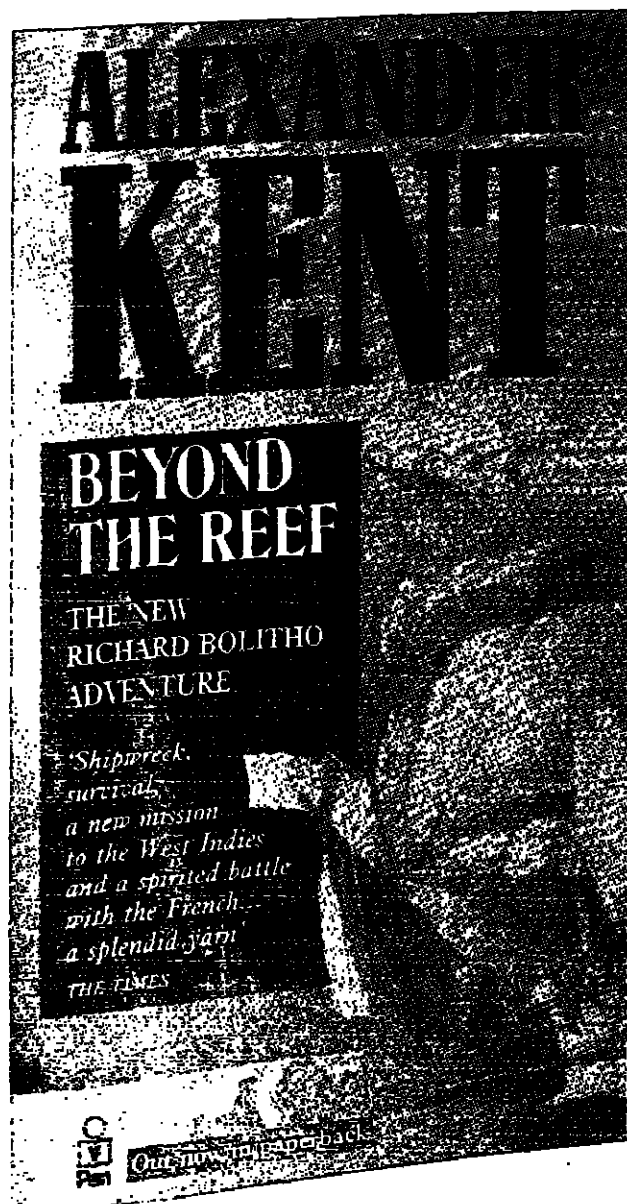
— from "natural causes." David Callard's brief but well-written biography has all the available facts. His skilful use of Kavan quotations does shed light on a state of mind difficult to fully comprehend. However, there is a certain lack of colour and depth. Perhaps this is inevitable, for Kavan engineered mystery. Following the most serious mental breakdown of her life in 1938, Helen Ferguson, née Woods, adopted a new appearance, birthdate, literary style, persona and name. She became Anna Kavan, and set out to destroy the evidence of the person she had once been.

In art as well as life she compulsively re-explores and refashions her past. Time never alleviated her pain; the novels grow progressively more dark. But with increased despair comes Kavan's true voice, eschewing realism for the "reality" which lies just beyond... the surface aspect of things", increasingly surreal, even apocalyptic scenarios, and a chilling hallucinatory style. In *Change the Name*, Kavan's second novel under her new name,

isolation, forced or learned, is the norm, the individual mind an invisible prison. Kavan precisely delineates the parameters of this cell, the ghosts which haunt and drive the characters, and the warped self-protective behaviour that results. Scattered by her loveless childhood, Celia learns from a hypochondriacal mother and overbearing, obtuse father to draw into herself to cope with an insupportable life. Successive marriages seem to offer a means of escape, but there can be no ultimate deliverance. Celia is her own jailer.

Like Kavan, Celia turns to writing. There she can find brief solace, and satisfy her need to control. She grows ever harder, more amoral and more self-obsessed. Other people exist to be manipulated. Child-bearing is a terrifying but brief period of the self's annihilation. The child itself is an incubator, to be kept in check by recreating the patterns of her own childhood.

What makes this not simply accessible but remarkable is Kavan's ability to dive deep into the psyche and resurface, to present her findings with clipped objectivity: to move from painful descriptions of a world seen through tortured eyes to stark and clinical reportage. In her life Kavan used imagination as a means of coping; like heroin it was a release. For her characters, the mind can offer only brief moments of brittle beauty in a life sentence of delusions. Like Kavan we turn from these creations to those within.



ABSOLUT
AMIS
The
Russian
Girl

'Kingsley Amis is now peerless among serious British novelists'

-The Times

£5.99 in Penguin

The Princess of Wales gives support to today's launch of Child Safety Week. Widget Finn reports on the work being done to keep children safe

Danger lurks in the world of innocents

Three children will die today in accidents in the home, at school, on the road or in a public building. Two million children are treated in hospital emergency departments in the UK each year, and of those 10,000 will be permanently disabled by accidents.

Many of these accidents are avoidable. Child Safety Week is being launched today by the Child Accident Prevention Trust (CAPT), a charity which researches the causes and patterns of childhood accidents and ways in which they can be reduced. The trust is inviting parents, professionals and the public to use the week to take practical steps to save a child from injury.

Children are by nature inquisitive and daring, and they cannot be constantly restrained. But they are dependent on adults to ensure the safety of the environment in which they live. The type of accident which affects a child is related closely to stages in its development. More boys than girls are involved in accidents, and there is a high frequency among boys aged between ten and 14.

Accidents to babies usually happen because adults fail to recognise the hazards of everyday objects and situations. A small baby can be scalded in an over-heat bath, choked by its feeding bottle if left unsupervised, or wriggle off the changing table when it starts to



A message from the Princess of Wales, Patron of the Child Accident Prevention Trust:

NOBODY who visits a hospital that cares for injured children can fail to be convinced of our responsibility to protect them from harm. All too often it is adults' negligence or carelessness, which contributes to children being injured, permanently disabled or even killed.

Wherever in the world they are, as they learn about their surroundings and discover the joy of playing together, children depend upon adults for their safety. Much can be done to reduce the risks they face.

become active. Toddlers will get into cupboards and fall down stairs. As children become more mobile and physically independent the rate of accidents outside the home increases.

Children cannot distinguish the taste of dangerous substances from safe foods until they are two or three, while the ability to judge the speed of traffic is not fully developed until around the age of 11.

Louise Pankhurst, the director of CAPT, says working for prevention requires looking at legislation, environmental changes, education and product awareness.

She says: "The responsibility for children's safety is frequently placed with the parents but often hazards are due to things which are outside the parents' control. Buildings and consumer goods are usually designed with adults in

mind. CAPT works with the professionals responsible to get them to think about children's needs in terms of safety."

CAPT involves the police, fire brigades, family practitioners, day nursery providers and manufacturers in a range of projects, bringing together the experts and the people who are directly involved in child accident prevention. The toy industry works hard on ensuring the safety of its products but the general environment poses a bigger problem.

Putting safety glass into buildings, including safety catches on kitchen cupboards, or installing second-stage car seats may seem pricey, but CAPT says these actions are cost-effective when balanced against the cost of children's accidents in terms of hospital admissions, pain, distress and parents' absence from work.

The trust publishes a wide range of materials on current research into child safety, but little work has yet been done on measuring intervention and the effects of improved safety levels.

Child safety will have an increasingly high profile through the government's Health of the Nation initiative, which aims to reduce accidents by a third by the year 2005. CAPT is lobbying politicians to support car safety legislation and



Child's play: Louise Pankhurst keeps an eye on her grandchildren, Christian, two, and Laura, four

is campaigning vigorously for child safety caps on medicine bottles and the use of cycle helmets for children.

The withdrawal of funds from central government has meant that CAPT wants support from the commercial sector. Volvo and Tomy Toys sponsored a leaflet, "First ride safe ride", giving advice on safety for a new baby leaving hospital. One million copies have

been distributed to health visitors and midwives.

The trust developed and co-ordinated a two-year campaign, "Play it safe — action for child safety", which involved government departments and safety organisations building up the public image of child safety.

During Child Safety Week, CAPT is distributing a checklist of ideas for action, such as having at

least one smoke detector in the home and locking away garden chemicals. Mothercare is offering advice from health visitors and road safety officers in 500 of their stores, and a newsletter, which goes to 80 primary schools in Kent, is running a home safety check for children to participate in.

Child Accident Prevention Trust, Clerks Court, 13-20 Farringdon Lane, London, EC1R 3AU (071-608 3828)

How to make a house into a safe home for children

The very word home conjures up images of security and comfort. Home is... well, safe as houses. Ray Ranson, an environmental health expert in housing, wishes that were true.

About 700 children die each year from accidents. Two hundred of those deaths are from accidents at home, and a lot of those might have been avoided if architects, builders and do-it-yourselfers worked with children in mind.

"The figures can't actually say an accident has been caused because of architectural design," Mr Ranson says. "If a toy is left on the stairs and a child trips on it and falls down stairs, that doesn't necessarily mean the design of the stairs is dangerous. But many accidents are associated with design features, and a lot of those are preventable."

He thinks of stairways where, instead of traditional vertical bal-

usters, there are planks set lengthways — "like a little climbing frame", or internal doors with ordinary glass at child height — "it ought to be safety glass". Or radiators at the bottom of stairs: "when a child falls it hits its head on the radiator, or even worse on the radiator valves".

Mr Ranson is also author of *Healthy Housing: A Practical Guide for the World Health Organisation*. He says that the cost of

building a house safe for children is somewhere between 1 and an absolute maximum of 5 per cent more than an unsafe house, "and that would be the difference between the very worst and the very best. For example, there are 55,000 accidents a year in hallways and on stairs and landings. The extra cost of making those areas more safe has been calculated at below 1 per cent."

Cupboards under the kitchen sink where bleach and other chemicals are kept are dangerous — unless there is a childproof catch at negligible cost. A kitchen designed so that a child cannot climb on a chair next to the cooker costs no more than any other kitchen.

Any house designed for families needs to take account of child safety. But so do houses designed specifically for people without small children around. "A lot of accidents occur in grandparents'

houses: mum takes the children to visit grandparents, who haven't had to think about child safety for years."

Mr Ranson and those like him who are trying to make houses safe for children regret that Parliament made their work more difficult with the 1989 Housing Act. "We used to be able to say 'This house is unfit because of bad internal design, and you've got to do something about it'. But the 1989

act changed previous housing legislation, taking out internal arrangement as one of the criteria of fitness. So we do not have legal powers to deal with poor designs."

"What we can do is persuade people who commission houses to put into their design brief that the building should conform with design criteria aimed at minimising accidents."

BILL CATER

VOLVO

THE KIND OF PATTERN THAT SELLS A VOLVO.

حديقة الأطفال

TOMY

Trustees face fund-raising challenges in tough times

Financial constraints and different priorities have made it essential to keep a firm grip on the way the organisation is run

The Child Accident Prevention Trust, says Fraser Whitehead, chairman of the trustees, is no longer typical of the mainly publicly funded voluntary-sector organisations which were set up in the 1970s. It has evolved from being a charity to being a charitable business.

Mr Whitehead describes the trust's management structure as sophisticated, consisting of 12 trustees who are public figures or professionals from the medical and health fields with power devolved through two committees whose areas are management and finance.

Day-to-day running of the trust outside the commitment of the staff rests with the management committee, whose members have a wide range of experience in fund-raising, commerce, accountancy, scientific and academic organisations. The responsibility of the management committee is to ensure the trust is operating within its budget, oversee its financial direction, and ensure that workers are aware of the need for their activities to be self-financing as far as possible.

"In these economically challenging times the trust resources

have to produce income," Mr Whitehead explains. "The trust has moved from pure research to making sure that any research work which is undertaken can be published commercially."

The professional committee examines the feasibility of projects and assesses whether a piece of research is of sufficiently high quality to justify the trust's involvement.

"We are very concerned that our professional standards are maintained, and that proposed research fits into the broad objectives of the charity. The committee also looks at the potential income that can be generated from a particular research activity."

The trust has an annual income of about £300,000. A third of this is funding from the government, another half is project income from government and other sources, and the balance is raised from the sale of products, literature and public fund-raising.

The charity's outgoings are

divided fairly evenly between staff wages, premises and promotional activities including conferences. The trust has had to make cutbacks and uncertainty about future income has meant it has been unable to re-fund a post which, ironically, was fee-earning.

The trust is currently changing its structure to give a greater fund-raising role to the director, Louise Pankhurst, who, in addition to being the principal administrator and manager, is also a public figure. Her everyday administrative role will be reduced, to enable her to concentrate on fund-raising and bringing a higher profile to the trust's work.

Mr Whitehead sees corporate sponsorship as an important area of future financial strategy. "Traditionally we haven't relied on corporate sponsorship for any significant income and mainly attracted funding from businesses which are directly involved with children. But we plan to look at a much wider industrial and commercial field to fund specific

projects." Economic pressures are affecting charities such as the Child Accident Prevention Trust on several fronts, according to Mr Whitehead.

"Society has become increasingly reliant on the voluntary sector to provide key facilities, but we are in great danger of losing a number of organisations through lack of funding," he says. "This will have a detrimental effect on everyone's quality of life."

While government is withdrawing funds from the voluntary sector it is also making increasing demands for charities to become more professional. Financial constraints make it difficult to find people who are able to take on the role of trustee.

Mr Whitehead, a solicitor in the national litigation practice Russell Jones and Walker, finds that the role of charitable trustee is very time-consuming. Organisations such as his own are in effect making a sizeable donation

to charity by providing the expertise of their employees as trustees.

Despite the economic climate the trust is set to expand into new areas. Publication of the government white paper The Health of the Nation was, says Mr Whitehead, "very heartening" and he sees the trust's future as inextricably linked with this promotion and commitment to major initiatives on safety and young children.

Devolution of the charity's work is a concern of the trustees currently. "The main focus is on London, and organisations like ourselves and Rospa," says Mr Whitehead. "We see children's safety as a community and health issue, and want to promote local strategies. Our main thrust is to set up public health and safety advisors in the regions who would inform local authorities, regulating bodies, politicians and the public about child safety."

A grass-roots approach means that local people will be involved in reducing child accidents in their own area and work together to make a healthier, safer and more enjoyable environment, he says.

WIDGET FINN



Fraser Whitehead with his 11-week-old son Angus

It pays to use your head

Hundreds of children die each year on our roads. Bill Cater looks at ways to cut the toll

Even hundred children die each year in accidents. Slightly more than half that number are road deaths. There are no figures on how many are seriously injured on the road.

An expert in the field is Dr Michael Hayes, the technical officer for the Child Accident Prevention Trust (CAPT). Asked what would help reduce the toll, he says: "The thing we lack in the United Kingdom is recognition of children's value to society. Children have very few rights here, they are not held up as being a precious commodity that has to be considered in all decisions. That is in conflict with what you see in countries where there is a Children's Ombudsman or a Ministry for Children."

"Something of that kind would mean that their needs were given greater status. It's not a cash thing: it is a fundamental matter that could underpin our work."

The statistics of children hurt, crippled and killed on the road are brutally clear: in the latest CAPT figures for 1989, 237 boys and girls were killed were pedestrians, 77 were in cars and 62 were on bicycles.

There were 5,200 child pedestrians seriously injured, and another 15,258 patched up in hospital accident departments but not hurt seriously enough to be admitted. A thousand children were seriously injured while in cars, and about 8,000 less seriously hurt.

But because of the way statistics were compiled, the injury figures for child cyclists are anyone's guess. The transport department's figures show 1,308 child cyclists seriously injured, but "pedal cycle accidents are greatly under-reported in Department of Transport statistics," says the CAPT.

"Only accidents causing injury and involving a motor vehicle need be reported to the police, so falls from cycles may go unreported although they appear in hospital data. If allowance is made for under-



Cycle casualty: a safety helmet saved this boy's life

reporting, the number of serious child casualties rises to between 3,500 and 8,500."

In the same way, official figures for slight injuries to child cyclists are 6,409, but the real number might be anywhere between 23,000 and 74,000.

"What should Britain do to improve its child safety record? Put much greater responsibility on drivers to be aware that children behave like children. Dashing out in front of a car is normal child behaviour, and the driver must know that as he drives," the CAPT says.

"We may need to lower speed limits drastically. If we do then the best way to impose those limits is by putting chicanes and speed humps on roads to slow vehicles down. Some of those strategies will also benefit pedal cyclists. We've got to train cyclists to ride correctly, but we've also got to train drivers to understand cyclists' difficulties. Cyclists need greater visibility. And helmets. These will lessen injuries."

About five in every hundred serious road accidents are likely to result in permanent damage. "A small proportion of head injuries will result in permanent disability in the form of intellectual impairment," says a report on cycle injuries.

"The outcome of injuries is generally a full recovery," says another on injuries in cars. "However, about 5 per cent of those admitted to hospital do experience some form of permanent disability, the most common being brain damage, limb deformity and permanent scarring." And a report on child pedestrian injuries says that 5 to 10 per cent of those admitted to hospital have some permanent disability.

"We have to educate specific



Accident prevention: latest figures show that 1,308 child cyclists were seriously injured

initiatives with specific groups," Dr Hayes says. "The use of seatbelts and child-restraint seats in cars began with education campaigns, later reinforced by law, and saved many lives and injuries."

"We are much too small an organisation to get to parents directly ourselves, but a lot of our work is getting to them through midwives, health visitors and road safety officers: a co-operative effort."

Part of the effort of making sure that children are kept safe inside a car is needed to convince mothers that it is never too soon to use a baby seat. Even for a new baby, its mother's arms are not safe

enough: in a crash, the force tearing the child from her arms would be 30 times its weight. And mothers should not think they can safeguard a baby by putting it against her within her own seat belt: in a crash it could be crushed to death by her weight.

The CAPT says: "Even very small babies can safely be put in semi-reclining, backward-facing seats. The only ones for whom there might be a problem would be premature babies, and they are unlikely to be out of hospital."

"These seats have been used in the United States for years

and there's no sign of spinal problems among American children. And though child safety seats are not cheap, it is now possible to rent them, and in some areas they can be borrowed and returned when the child grows out of them."

Dr Hayes is not over-impressed with many car manufacturers: "They make what they call 'family cars' but don't provide for children. One or two are beginning to have integral child seats, such as the Volvo 900 series where a child safety seat is built into the centre arm rest of the back seat. But with most, there's considerable scope for improvement."

Teach your child the art of survival

What distinguishes the Child Accident Prevention Trust from other safety organisations, says Dr Sara Levene, "is that we try to relate accidents to a broad picture of how children behave."

In some cases it is chance as much as anything that decides whether a child is hurt by a car or by falling down stairs, Dr Levene says. The risk is the down side of curiosity, growing up and the eagerness to explore. Adult knowledge and experience can reduce the dangers, but cannot change the risk-taking nature of childhood.

"Speak of toy safety and people think of the warnings on television at Christmas — toys such as the teddy bear whose head comes off exposing a sharp spike," Dr Levene says. "But I have never heard of a child hurt by one. Toys are not a real safety problem. In fact, toys like that are few and far between. Anything with a reputable brand name, sold in a reputable shop, is likely to be well made and safe."

"Most toy accidents happen because toys are left on the floor and people fall over them; or because children are given a toy they are too young to cope with. When a toddler of two is given a toy clearly marked 'unsuitable for children under three' — that is when he sticks tiny bricks up his nose or has some other kind of accident. Safety is more a matter of training parents than training toy makers."

"With nursery goods there can be a problem about cultural differences between countries as we try to agree standards for Europe. The highchair is an example. In Greece people do not use them; the baby sits on granny's lap to have its meal at the table. In this country we use highchairs with a harness to stop the baby falling out."

The French use highchairs too, but with a sort of cushion to wedge the baby in, not a harness. And in Scandinavia people do not restrain children in highchairs at all because they think it is psychologically damaging. If people from all

Accidents happen in every home. The trick is for adults to drill children in the safety code

those countries have to agree standards for highchairs and harnesses, they are going to have problems."

In Britain, Dr Levene believes, a big child safety problem is straightforward poverty. "Children in lower socio-economic groups are far more likely to be involved in accidents. It is not that their parents do not care."

When can parents finally relax? Dr Levene, who has a son, says: "With boys I think they are not safe until they are about 35!"

It is important, she believes, for parents not to be negative about safety; not to think all the time in terms of stair gates, fire guards, cooker guards, nor to try to keep a child safe by making it afraid of things.

"It is important to teach your children by showing them safe behaviour. It is sensible to tell your two-year-old not to touch the big sharp knife, but at six or seven you should show them how to hold the bread knife properly and how to hold the loaf so that they cannot be cut."

"It is the same with matches. Some children of 10 or 11 are not allowed to strike a match, but it is better to show a child how to hold the match at the far end, how to strike it and hold it away from themselves. There is a lot parents can do to prevent really serious accidents to children," says Dr Levene, "though some bumps and scrapes are inevitable. My son fell over the other night and had to go to casualty. Accidents can happen in the best-regulated homes."

BILL CATER



Car safety seats protect babies in accidents

Tomy recognises the importance of your child's safety while...



and supports The Child Accident and Prevention Trust

Trust TOMY

A pioneer in search of solutions

Hugh Jackson was a young doctor working on a hospital children's ward when he first saw what accidents to children meant, writes Bill Cater.

"There was no separate children's orthopaedic or surgical ward: we would have a boy with a broken leg alongside a child with pneumonia or appendicitis. It made me begin to realise what a tremendous toll of accidents was passing under our noses."

He remembers one case in particular, an accidental poisoning common at a time when medicines were sold in easily opened bottles, even paper wrappings.

"He was a boy of about 18 months old, who had taken ten of his mother's anti-depressant tablets. I got the fits under control, then with a paediatric cardiologist and an adult cardiologist we tried to

get this child sorted out. We failed. It was the one death I have ever had from medicinal poisoning."

"I said to myself, 'What the hell are we doing, allowing this to happen?' and did a study of the background of poisonings, collecting 300 examples in no time at all." This led to his being put on a committee on hospital management of acute poisoning, setting Dr Jackson on the path that made him a founder of the trust.

Experiments were going on into child-resistant containers — nobody dealing with child safety likes to say "child-proof" — and Dr Jackson was anxious to ensure rigorous standards were set.

"Finally the new containers were introduced, and they reduced the number of children being admitted to hospital from aspirin-poisoning ac-



Dr Jackson: founder

idents from 7,000 a year to below 5,000."

He then thought, "what about the rest of the accidents to children?" — and found there was no simple answer.

It is difficult, he says, to set priorities in working to prevent children's accidents. Research has shown that

"probably one of the most effective ways of reducing death from head injuries in children would be to provide safe, stimulating places in deprived areas for them to play near their homes." For these injuries, like most child accidents, are related to social class: poorer children play in the street more.

"This isn't the usual way you think of accident prevention, but it shows the importance of educating town planners, for example."

It worries Dr Jackson that little public money is available for accident-prevention work, and that charities which support research into children's illnesses have a bigger grasp on people's purse-strings. But in reality accidents are a worse child-killer and child-maimer than any single disease. But at least there is the prospect of some solutions.

SAINSBURY'S

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CHILD ACCIDENT PREVENTION TRUST



Sunday trading ban not against EEC law

Stoke-on-Trent City Council v B & Q plc
Norwich City Council v B & Q plc

Before Lord Goff of Chieveley, Lord Bridge of Harwich, Lord Brandon of Oakbrook and Lord Acker

[Speeches March 31]

Article 30 of the EEC Treaty (Council Directive 1992/100) was interpreted as meaning that the prohibition that it laid down against "quantitative restrictions on imports and all measures having equivalent effect" did not apply to national legislation prohibiting retailers from opening their premises on Sundays.

The House of Lords, following a reference to the European Court of Justice (*The Times* December 17, 1992), dismissed consolidated appeals by B & Q from Mr Justice Hoffmann (*The Times* July 24, 1990; [1991] Ch 48).

Mr David Vaughan, QC, Mr Gerald Farling, QC, Mr Nicholas Davidson and Mr David Anderson for B & Q; Mr Stuart Isaacs, QC and Mr Neil Calver for the councils.

LORD GOFF said that the case was one of the line of cases concerned with Sunday trading that had come before the courts in recent years in which large retailers had sought to argue that section 47 of the Shops Act 1950, which, subject to certain exceptions, prohibited Sunday trading, had to be rejected as inconsistent with the prohibition in article 30 of the Treaty.

That argument had been rejected by the judge, and after he had indicated that he would be prepared to grant an injunction, sought by the councils, restraining B & Q from opening on Sundays, B & Q had given an undertaking to that effect. They had then appealed direct to the House of Lords under

the "leapfrog" procedure. However, after hearing argument, their Lordships had decided to refer certain questions to the Court of Justice of the European Communities under article 177 of the EEC Treaty and the hearing of the appeal had been adjourned pending receipt of the answers.

The European context in which the question at issue had arisen was set out in *Kirkstall Metropolitan Borough Council v Wickes Building Supplies Ltd* (*The Times* June 29, 1992; [1993] AC 227, 275-297).

It was unnecessary to rehearse the European jurisprudence again. It was sufficient to record that the question of the impact of article 30 on section 47 of the 1950 Act had first been raised before the European Court in Case C-145/88 *Torfaen Borough Council v B & Q plc* (*The Times* November 24, 1989; [1990] 2 QB 19).

The answer then given by the European Court had been: "Article 30 of the Treaty must be interpreted as meaning that the prohibition which it lays down does not apply to national rules prohibiting retailers from opening their premises on Sunday where the restrictive effects on Community trade which may result therefrom do not exceed the effects intrinsic to rules of that kind."

That answer had led to a large number of cases up and down the country in which the issue of proportionality had been raised and answered as a question of fact on the basis of evidence from expert witnesses. The judge, however, had solved the problem on the basis that the relevant facts were properly matters of judicial notice.

Before the present appeal had first come before the Appellate Committee, the European Court had given judgment in two related cases. Case C-312/89 *Union*

Deportementale des Syndicats CGT de l'Aisne v Sidel Conforama (*The Times* March 6, 1991; [1991] ECR I-997) and Case C-332/89 *Criminal Proceedings v A. Marchandise* (*The Times* March 6, 1991; [1991] ECR I-1027) concerned with similar although not precisely identical subject matter to the Sunday trading prohibition by section 47 of the 1950 Act.

In its judgment in those cases, the European Court was guided by Mr Advocate General van Gerven to accept the argument of the Commission of the European Communities that assessment of the need for and proportionality of specific legislation could not be left to the national courts, but had substantially departed from its previous approach in the *Torfaen* case.

The first question posed by the House of Lords in the present appeals for consideration by the European Court had been:

"Is the effect of the Court of Justice's rulings in *Conforama* and *Marchandise* to determine that the prohibition contained in article 30... does not apply to national rules, such as those in issue in *Torfaen*, which prohibit retailers from opening their premises on Sunday for the serving of customers with certain goods?"

To that question the court had now provided an unequivocal answer: "Article 30... is to be interpreted as meaning that the prohibition which it lays down does not apply to national legislation prohibiting retailers from opening their premises on Sunday."

That answer made it plain that the present appeals had to fail.

LORD BRIDGE, Lord Brandon and Lord Acker agreed.

Solicitors: Hepher Winstanley & Pugh, Southampton; Sharpe Pritchard for Mr J. Picken, Stoke-on-Trent and Mr Richard M. Auton, Norwich.

In re Maxwell Communication Corporation plc
Before Mr Justice Vinelott
[Judgment March 26]

No principle of insolvency legislation precluded the validity of a contract, freely made between a proposed debtor and creditor, that money advanced should, in the event of the debtor's insolvency, be subordinated to the payment of the debts of other unsecured creditors. Mr Justice Vinelott so held in the Chancery Division on an application for directions by the joint administrators of Maxwell Communication Corporation plc (MCC) in making a declaration that they were entitled to exclude from a scheme of arrangement, under section 425 of the Companies Act 1985, those who were creditors of MCC (the guarantee creditors) by reason of holding convertible bonds in Maxwell Finance Jersey Ltd (MFJ), whereof the payment of principal and interest had been "unconditionally and irrevocably guaranteed on a subordinated basis, in accordance with article 111 of the Swiss Federal Code of Obligations" by MCC.

The respondent to the application

was Mr John Cone for the administrators. Mr Charles Purdie, QC and Mr Mark Phillips for the bank.

MR JUSTICE VINELOTT said that it was common ground that MFJ would be unable to meet its liabilities under the bonds and that if the rights of the guaranteed creditors were subordinated to those of other unsecured creditors, they would receive nothing.

A similar situation had arisen in *Re British and Commonwealth Holdings plc* (No 2) ([1992] 1 WLR 672), where a clause in the trust deed, governing the issue of £320 million of convertible unsecured loan stock, provided that it should, in the event of that company being wound up, be "subordinated in right of payment to the claims of all other creditors of the company".

Mr Purdie had not challenged the correctness of that decision, namely that the holders of that loan stock, being effectively subordinated to all other creditors' claims, were not entitled to be given notice of, or to vote, at a creditors' meeting convened to consider the scheme there proposed.

But there was a vital distinction between that and the instant case: here, both the MFJ bonds and MCC's guarantee were governed by Swiss law, which did not recognise trusts.

The case for the bank was founded on *National Westminster Bank Ltd v Halesowen Presswork and Assemblies Ltd* ([1972] AC 785) and on *Re Ravel Ltd v Car* ([1967] 1 QB 552), in which it was held that no party could opt out of the provisions of section 31 of the Bankruptcy Act 1914, as applied by section 317 of the Companies Act 1948. Mutual debts, mutual credits and mutual dealings apart, all unsecured creditors had to be treated *pari passu*, unaffected by any private contractual arrangements.

In *British Eagle International*

Airlines Ltd v Compagnie Nationale Air France ([1975] 1 WLR 758) the House of Lords had held that the requirement in section 302 of the 1948 Act that "the property of a company shall, on its winding up, be applied in satisfaction of its liabilities *pari passu*" prevailed over contractual arrangements into which the parties and the International Air Transport Association (IATA) had entered, for good business reasons.

Under section 107 of the Insolvency Act 1986, similar provision for *pari passu* was made in the case of a voluntary winding-up. Compulsory winding-up was not dealt with in the Act but rule 4.18(1) of the Insolvency Rules (SI 1986 No 1925) provided: "Debts other than preferential debts rank equally between themselves in the winding-up and, after the preferential debts, shall be paid in full unless the assets are insufficient... in which case they abate in equal proportions between themselves."

The question was whether any principle of public policy, which underlay those decisions also precluded the postponement or subordination, by agreement, of a creditor's own claim to those of others.

His Lordship thought it did not. After the commencement of a bankruptcy or winding-up, any creditor could waive his own debt simply by declining to submit a proof. A *fortiori*, he must then be entitled to agree that its payment be postponed to the payment of others' debts.

If so, why should public policy be infringed by such an agreement, entered into in contemplation of, as here, the coming into being of the debtor being wound-up, at the time when the debt itself was created? Moreover, other persons, such as an agreement being known to them, might well subsequently have given such a debt credit on the assumption that it was binding.

Mr Purdie had submitted, as a reason for excluding such an agreement, that a liquidator ought not to be required or entitled to look behind any proof by any unsecured creditor: public policy demanded *pari passu* treatment for all.

That submission failed to convince. Sections 212(1)(f) of the 1948 Act and 215(4) of the 1986 Act already provided statutory exceptions to *pari passu* distribution.

Mr Purdie had also relied on observations by Mr Justice

Templeman and Lord Simon of Glaisdale in the *British Eagle* case but it seemed to his Lordship that the only real issues in that case related to the proper analysis of the rights and obligations obtained and undertaken by the parties. There had been no issue as to the principle of insolvency law to be applied.

Accordingly, none of the three authorities cited compelled the conclusion that a contract between a company and a creditor, providing for the subordination, in the event of a winding-up, of that creditor's debt to those of other unsecured creditors, was rendered void by the insolvency legislation.

Indeed, a contrary decision would have wide reaching repercussions.

The Court of Appeal (Lord Taylor of Gosforth, Lord Chief Justice, Mr Justice Henry and Mr Justice Bristow) so stated on March 11 when granting an application and allowing in part an appeal by Gordon Richards against sentences imposed on February 27, 1992 at Swansea Crown Court by Mr Justice Buckley, following the

appellant's pleas of guilty to indecent assault (counts 1 and 11), rape (count 7) and incest (counts 8 and 10).

THE LORD CHIEF JUSTICE said that the judge had specifically asked for assistance from counsel in regard to indecent assault and was unfortunately misinformed. The sentences of nine and eight years imprisonment imposed in respect of counts 1 and 11 exceeded the maximum term permitted. They would be reduced to three years.

However, the total sentence of 12 years imprisonment was justified by the appellant's conduct and his application in relation to the overall sentence would be refused.

Solicitors: Norton Rose, Gouders.

Counsel's duty to remind judge

Regina v Richards

Counsel, particularly counsel for the Crown, had a duty to the court to inform himself or herself of the maximum sentence for any of the offences for which the court was going to have to sentence and to make sure that if the judge made any error he was reminded of his powers: see *R v Nunes* (*The Times* July 31, 1991).

The Court of Appeal (Lord Taylor of Gosforth, Lord Chief Justice, Mr Justice Henry and Mr Justice Bristow) so stated on March 11 when granting an application and allowing in part an appeal by Gordon Richards against sentences imposed on February 27, 1992 at Swansea Crown Court by Mr Justice Buckley, following the

Striking out case

Goyner v Lombard North Central Wheelcase Ltd

While it was desirable for applications pursuant to Order 18, rule 19 of the Rules of the Supreme Court to strike out pleadings to be made as early as possible, it would be wrong to refuse such an application where that would result in even greater costs being wasted in the long trial of a hopeless action.

Where *North 18/19/23* of the *Supreme Court Practice* 1993 referring to *Hammond v Bank of London & Montreal* (1893) 68 LT 438 stated that such an application would be refused after the action had been

set down, that was no longer good law.

The Court of Appeal (Lord Justice Dillon, Lord Justice Leggatt and Lord Justice Hirst) so held on February 23 in dismissing an appeal (Lord Justice Dillon dissenting) brought by the plaintiff, Mr Nicholas Murray Goyner against the decision of Mr Jonathan Sumption, QC, sitting as a deputy judge of the Chancery Division, striking out the plaintiff's claim against the first defendants, Lombard North Central Wheelcase Ltd and the second defendants, Shell Tankers (UK) Ltd.

Words used must be adequate

Mountain v Hastings

There was no statutory requirement in the Housing Act 1988 that the ground relied on concerning rent arrears in a notice of proceedings for possession of a dwelling house let on an assured tenancy be set out verbatim from Schedule 2 to the Act.

The Court of Appeal (Lord Justice Goff, Lord Justice Nourse and Lord Justice Nourse) so held in a reserved judgment on March 24 when allowing the appeal of Joanne Hastings from the decision of Mr Recorder Trig-

ger in Preston County Court on October 2, 1992 that Henry Mountain be given possession under section 8 of the 1988 Act and that the case be remitted to the county court for a rehearing.

LORD JUSTICE RALPH GIBSON said that the ground relied upon might be validly specified in the notice in words different from those in which the ground was set out in Schedule 2 provided that the words used set out fully the substance of the ground so that the notice was adequate to achieve the legislative purpose.

That was to give the tenant the information required so as to enable her to consider what she should do and, with or without advice, to do that which was in her power and which would best protect her against the loss of her home.

The notice of proceedings for possession was defective because it did not specify the ground relied upon by omitting the words "at least three months rent is unpaid", a requirement for proving the ground relied upon in Schedule 2.

Patents Act defence in foreign law

Chiron Corporation and Others v Murex Diagnostics Ltd (formerly BCW Operations Ltd)

Same v Organon Teknika Ltd and Others

The defence in section 44(3) of the Patents Act 1977 applied to contracts governed by the law of New Jersey as much as to those governed by English law.

The Court of Appeal (Lord Justice Dillon, Lord Justice Leggatt and Lord Justice Hirst) so held on February 25 in dismissing interlocutory appeals by Chiron Corporation and other plaintiffs against the decisions of Mr Justice Aldous on November 6, 1992 and October 29, 1992 whereby he refused the plaintiffs leave to amend their reply and defence to counterclaim.

LORD JUSTICE DILLON said that the plaintiffs contended that since the contracts were governed by the law of New Jersey the defence in section 44(3) was not available to the defendants at all. In his Lordship's judgment, the fact the agreement was governed by New Jersey law did not automatically knock out the defence in section 44(3) and the effect of the agreement relied upon by the defendants was a matter for trial.

LEGAL & PUBLIC NOTICES

COMPANY NOTICES

ELSEVIER

Amsterdam

Annual General Meeting of Shareholders

at the Company's headquarters,
4 Van de Sande Bakhuisstraat, Amsterdam,
at 10.30 a.m. on Wednesday, 21 April 1993.

The agenda includes the Executive Board's report on the Company's affairs during 1992, approval of the 1992 Annual Accounts, and a reappointment to membership of the Supervisory Board.

The documents for the meeting and a proxy form are available for UK-resident shareholders at the offices of Reed Elsevier plc (corporate relations dept.), 6 Chesterfield Gardens, London W1A 1EJ.

Registered shareholders and other registered holders of voting rights are entitled to attend the meeting, either in person or by proxy authorised in writing, if the Executive Board has been notified in writing, by no later than 19 April 1993 of their intention to attend the meeting.

Holders of bearer shares are entitled to attend, either in person or by proxy authorised in writing, if their share certificates have been deposited, by no later than 19 April 1993, with a branch of any of the following banks: Citibank, Citicorp, Citicredit, Citicredit Bank N.V., Rabobank Nederland, Internationale Nederlanden Bank N.V., Bank Mees & Hope N.V., Hollandsche Bank Unie N.V., or Credit Lyonnais Bank Nederland N.V. in Amsterdam, Rotterdam, The Hague or Utrecht. Receipt of deposit serves as admission to the meeting.

Executive Board
Elsevier NV

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Annual report and accounts 1992 are available from
Informex Ltd,
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EC4Y 8AA.

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A TAYLOR SERVICES LTD
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN
THAT THE COMPANY HAS BEEN
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OF COMPANIES IN ENGLAND
AND WALES AS A LIMITED
COMPANY ON 24th March 1993
AND THAT THE COMPANY IS
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CRÈME DE LA CRÈME

ADMINISTRATIVE POST

As the professional body of over 130,000 members and students, in 125 countries of the world, the Chartered Association of Certified Accountants has a particular responsibility to ensure that the highest professional standards are maintained. The Association has statutory recognition under companies, insolvency and financial services legislation. It is a leading examining body and education provider.

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31ST MARCH 10AM-6PM
1ST APRIL 10AM-4.30PM

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30TH MARCH 10AM-6PM

SPORT IN BRIEF

Tribunal supports banned Ngugi



od	open	fine	2	24/3
now base; all lifts and plates open)				
ble	closed	sunny	5	25/3
coming; thin cover of wet snow lower)				
fair	closed	fine	4	25/3
with Italy and 20 lifts open)				

44-150

BBC1

- 6.00 Business Breakfast** (39913)
6.30 Breakfast News (3267807)
9.05 Kilroy. Topical discussion series chaired by Robert Kilroy-Silk (S) (6485536) 9.45 **Rose King**. Game show (S) (2061536)
10.00 News (CeeFax), regional news and weather (193401) **10.05 Playdays** (S) (7541555)
10.30 Good Morning... with Anne and Nick. Magazine series presented by Anne Diamond and Nick Owen (S) (6257486)
12.15 Pebble Mill. Alan Titchmarsh's guests include the author Laurie Lee (S) (7105623) **12.55 Regional News and Weather** (3470178)
1.00 One O'Clock News with Philip Hayton. (CeeFax) (73254)
1.30 Neighbours (CeeFax) (S) (11629807) **1.50 Dividing** with David. A documentary about Watani Kizara, the world's first ever to be licensed to give instruction beneath the sea. He is seen diving with his 11-year-old daughter in the Shiretoko peninsula in the far north-east of Japan (S) (6164371)
2.25 Racing From Antares. Julian Wilson introduces live coverage of the 2.35, 3.10 and 3.45 races. The 4.20 race is on BBC2 (S) (8354178)
3.55 Rupert, narrated by Ray Brooks (S) (7778449) **4.00 Melvin and Stuart's Music-A-Grams**. Last in the music series presented by Matthew Devitt and Sophie Aldred (S) (519178) **4.15 The New York Bear Show** (S) (4977178) **4.25 Dizzy Heights**. Comedy series set in a chaotic seaside hotel. (CeeFax) (S) (5132265) **4.45 The Flawed Glass**. The fourth of five stories by Ian Strachan, told by Joanna Roth (S) (8225130)
5.00 Newsround (5625488) **5.10 Blue Peter**. Includes the launch of the Children's Museum of the Year competition. (CeeFax) (S) (6109159)
5.35 Neighbours (S) (CeeFax) (S) (823536). Northern Ireland. Inside Ulster
6.00 Six O'Clock News with Anna Ford and Andrew Hurren. (CeeFax) (73254)
6.30 Regional News Magazines (88). Northern Ireland. Neighbours
7.00 Top of the Pops introduced by Mark Franklin (S) (1062)
7.30 EastEnders. (CeeFax) (S) (72)



Wilderness survivor: the Springbok (8.00pm)

- 8.00 Wildlife On One: Springbok of the Kalahari**. The last in the series follows the life of a male springbok, living in the southern African wilderness. (CeeFax) (S) (2410)
8.30 Side by Side. Last in the comedy series starring Gareth Hunt and Louise Rix as ill-matched suburban neighbours. (CeeFax) (S) (6517)
9.00 Nine O'Clock News with Maryn Lewis. (CeeFax) (S) (6109159)
9.30 Rough Justice: Murder in Mind. (CeeFax) (S) See Choice (493904)
10.10 Question Time chaired by Peter Sissons. The guests include Gyles Brandreth, MP, Lord Eastwell, and Amanda Platell, managing editor of Mirror Group Newspapers (771994)
11.10 Law and Order. American crime series. The conclusion of a two-part story *The Terrors of Greed* (S) (818954). Wales. Judy Claxton 12.25am *Law and Order* 1.10 News and weather
11.55 Weather (315197)

BBC2

- 6.45 Open University 8.00 Breakfast News** (8421975) **8.15 Westminster** (5441449)
9.00 Film: Fanny (1832, b/w). The second film in Marcel Pagnol's trilogy films *Fanny* abandoned with Marthe's child. Starring Pierre Fresnay and Orane Demazis (44294)
11.00 Film: Up in the World (1956, b/w). Simple slapstick fun starring Norman Wisdom as a window cleaner. Directed by John Paddy Carstairs (76401)
12.30 African Odyssey: A National Geographic documentary about two American conservationists. Mark and Delia Owens (S) (4300913)
1.20 The Adventures of Spot (S) (75200913) **1.25 Broom** (S) (1319082) **1.35 Better Badminton** with Jake Downey (S) (18187159)
2.00 News (CeeFax) (S) (80628178) **2.05 The Front Garden** (S) (7048913)
3.00 News (CeeFax) (S) (8127807) **3.05 Westminster Live** (8271284) **3.50 News** (CeeFax), regional news and weather (8560081)
4.00 Racing From Antares continued from BBC1. Live coverage of the 4.20 race (S) (8609913)
4.40 Look Stranger. Starring Cecil Durston (S) (6249031) **5.00 From the Edge**. Bi-monthly magazine featuring disabled reporters. (CeeFax) (S) (9488). Wales. Japanese Language and People
5.30 Film 93 with Barry Norman (S) (65). Wales: Business Matters
6.00 Film: The Burning Hills (1956) starring Tab Hunter and Natalie Wood. Minor western about a young farmer avenging the death of his brother. Directed by Stuart Heisler (59265). Wales: Advice Shop 6.30 Def TT: Report 7.10-8.00 Bookmark
7.30 First Sight: Dial M for Malice. Fiona Oates reports on the efforts to trace and prosecute the perpetrators of the 700 malicious phone calls made in London each day (S) (6109159)
8.00 Richard Wilson: A Life Beyond the Grave. (CeeFax) See Choice (8352)
8.30 Top Gear. Includes Jeremy Clarkson test driving Jaguar's new XJ12 (S) (4159)



On the road: Saunders and French (9.00pm)

- 9.00 French and Saunders**. Dawn and Jennifer in a tribute to *Thelma and Louise*. (CeeFax) (S) (2913)
9.30 A Labour of Love: Call Me Mother. (CeeFax) See Choice (491246)
10.10 The Staggering Stories of Ferdinand de Barcos. Surreal comedy series (S) (783246)
10.30 Newsnight with Peter Snow (523504)
11.15 The Late Show. Arts and media magazine (S) (837101) **11.55 Weather** (315197)
12.00 Jumpstart (591314)
12.05am A Labour of Love: Call Me Mother. Home or hospital? (2796668). Ends at 12.30

VideoPlayer and the Video PlusCodes numbers, which allow you to programme your video recorder to watch a particular programme, can be used with most video-cassette recorders. For the programme you wish to watch, go to the Video PlusCode on the screen and enter the number. For more details call 0800 012345 (a charge of 40p per minute plus 30p off-peak) or visit the website: www.bbc.co.uk

CHOICE



Victims of poverty: Lawrence and Monica (8.00pm)

Our House Channel 4, 8.00pm
 The *Gimme Shelter* season comes up with the shrewd idea of reflecting the experience of homelessness through the eyes of children. Adults do appear in the film but the words are spoken only by their offspring. The format is simple but effective. Children of families who have lost their own homes conduct us round their temporary ones. Most are bed and breakfast hotels. In the circumstances the young folk are remarkably cheerful but there is no disguising what they feel about being forced to share bedrooms and having nowhere to play. They are sensitive, too, to damp walls and lack of heating. Graphic descriptions of the present are intercut with hopes for the future, as set down in poignant drawings of their dream homes.

Richard Wilson: A Life Beyond the Grave BBC2, 8.00pm
 The Scottish actor and director goes back to his Greenock roots and reflects on playing Victor Meldrew, the nation's favourite angry old man. In keeping with his status as a television megastar Wilson is driven around in a white Mercedes, a joke he suffers with good-humoured modesty. Wilson laments the passing of the *Victor* show, pleads guilty to being a socialist and listens to colleagues saying nice things about him. Except that it is for Angus Deayton, who accuses Wilson of stealing one of his speeches. But Deayton could be joking. Wilson's achievements, which go far beyond the inimitable Victor, deserve more extensive treatment. But this enjoyable little film is something to be going on with.

Rough Justice: Murder in Mind BBC1, 9.30pm
 The campaigning series about alleged miscarriages of justice returns for a one-off edition to examine the case of Patrick Kane. In 1988 two British soldiers were killed after driving their car into the path of an IRA funeral in Casement Park, West Belfast. Kane is one of several people serving a life sentence for the crime. He was found guilty by a judge, sitting without a jury, under the *Rough Justice* programme. Kane's claims that the conviction was unsafe, citing Kane's background (illiterate, half-deaf and no criminal record) and evidence from a priest who was with the soldiers. Kane's is the eighteenth case to be examined by *Rough Justice*. So far the programme has helped to get five convictions quashed.

A Labour of Love: Call Me Mother BBC2, 9.30pm
 The excellent series on bringing up children in Britain rounds off with a look at parent substitutes. In the early part of the century, it is estimated, one child in ten was cared for by someone other than a natural parent. The situation often led to friction and unhappiness, here documented in vivid first-hand accounts. The saddest tale is that of David Baron who endured years of being taken off and beaten by foster parents and was then turned off to a "nice new home" that turned out to be a mental hospital. Other distressing cases concern a mother who, after a long and painful marriage, was left with a 16-year-old son who was left to bring up his three young sisters. She coped superbly. Peter Waymark

ITV LONDON

- 6.00 GMTV**. The guests include Phil Collins and Luv Stars Michael Angelo and Sue Johnston (7270081)
9.25 Jeopardy! Daily quiz (7813791) **9.55 London Today** (CeeFax) and weather (7527975)
10.00 The Time... The Place... (4239913)
10.35 This Morning. Family magazine (88236517)
12.10 The Riddlers. For the very young (8858575)
12.30 ITV Lunchtime News with Nicholas Owen and Sonia Rusler (Teletext) (4570361) **1.05 London Today** (Teletext) and weather (83031733)
1.15 Home and Away. Australian family drama. (Teletext) (283975) **1.45 A Country Practice**. Medical drama (S) (292246)
2.15 The View. Loyd Grossman with more viewers' comment on what has been seen on television (217555) **2.45 Take the High Road**. Highlands-based drama series (4282827)
3.10 ITV News headlines (8139913) **3.15 London Today** (Teletext) and weather (8137284) **3.20 Blockbusters**. Teenagers' general knowledge quiz (S) (1050420)
3.50 Where's Walley? (5989130) **4.15 Rolf's Cartoon Club** (S) (837468) **4.45 Tiny Toon Adventures**. Three cartoons (7712401)
5.10 Home and Away (S) (Teletext) (3444410)
5.40 Early Evening News with Dermot Murnaghan. (Teletext) (457642)
6.00 London Tonight. (Teletext) (50772)
7.00 Emmerdale. (Teletext) (5130)



Love in a cold climate: David Pearce (7.30pm)

- 7.30 3D**. The last in the series includes the story of a British engineer, David Pearce, who deserted his wife and children 13 years ago when he fell in love with someone else and decided to stay in Siberia (S)
8.00 The Bill: Goods Received. DS Greg investigates a burglary at a bankrupt wholesaler and discovers a connection with a missing schoolboy who harbours criminal aspirations. (Teletext) (2178)
8.30 Minders. For a few dollars more. The last in the series finds a penniless Alan and Ray trying to raise the airfare home from Australia. (Teletext) (52565)
9.30 Disguises: Escape From Bosnia. The final part of Adam Holloway's first-hand report on Bosnian refugees fleeing from their embattled village (82517)
10.00 News at Ten with John Suchet. (Teletext) (Teletext) and weather (35572)
10.40 Big City. A guide to the capital's entertainment scene (S) (802623)
11.15 Film: Hot Pursuit (1987) starring John Cusack and Robert Loggia. Uneven teen comedy about a young man in pursuit of his holiday girlfriend. Directed by Steven Lisberger (S) (590420)
12.55am The End of the World. A tale of the supernatural (S) (364685)
1.30 Hollywood Report. Showbusiness gossip (S) (81814) **2.00 America's Top Ten** (S) (81579)
2.30 Donahue. The guests are women who now find their former husbands irresistible (75550)
3.30 Alfred Hitchcock Presents: Survival of the Fittest. A tale with a twist starring Patrick Macnee (S) (82517) **4.00 Entertainment UK**. Leisure time guide (S) (25579)
5.00 Riviera. French drama serial (31550)
5.30 ITV Morning News with Phil Roman (53111). Ends at 6.00

CHANNEL 4

- 5.50 Sesame Street** (S) (3026389)
6.45 Dennis. Animation (3073401)
7.00 The Big Breakfast (53807)
9.00 Jayce and the Wheeled Warriors (S) (42265) **9.30 The Batman** (b/w) (S) (615517) **9.50 Fruitful Cooperation**. Animation (7526248)
9.55 Gamesmaster. Computer and video games show (S) (754255) **10.30 New Kids on the Block**. Pop music cartoon series (S) (1331284)
10.55 The Miraculous Melopops (S) (1318975) **11.25 The Bunbury Tales** (S) (581401) **11.30 The Henderson Kids** (S) (5248)
12.00 The Parliament Programme (22401)
12.30 Sesame Street. The guest is Danny DeVito (82448) **1.30 Chicken Minute** (S) (72594)
2.00 Film: Gentle and Kidding (1958, b/w) starring Sybil Thorndike, Kathleen Harrison and Estelle Winwood. Gentle comedy about a trio of older women who hot-foot it from a less-than-gentle retirement home and end up on a remote Irish island. Directed by Cyril Frankel (943456)
3.45 Gimme Shelter: Raising the Roof. First report of the day from the building site (8554538)
3.55 Food File (S) (Teletext) (S) (8674449)
4.30 Countdown. (Teletext) (S) (81)
5.00 The Oprah Winfrey Show. The guests are surrogate mothers. (Teletext) (S) (7177420)
5.50 The Magic Roundabout. Classic young children's entertainment, narrated by Nigel Planer (S) (872642)
6.00 The Word - Access All Areas. The guests in the last show of the series include wrestling star Hackshaw Jim Duggan (S) (49)
6.30 A Different World. The first of a new series of the American college campus comedy (S) (8)
7.00 Channel 4 News with Jon Snow and Zeinab Badawi. (Teletext) (Teletext) (33246)
7.50 Gimme Shelter: Caves, Castles and Council Houses. The history of housing continues with a look at crofts (488333)
8.00 Gimme Shelter: Our House. (Teletext) See Choice (3420)



House of games: Richard O'Brien (8.30pm)

- 8.30 Crystal Maze**. The first of a new series of the fantasy game show hosted by Richard O'Brien (23807)
9.30 Gimme Shelter: Tony and Alan - No Place Like Home. Filmed last night before Christmas, a documentary about Tony and Alan, two isolated, non-drinking out of work construction workers from Folkestone who pick up in Brighton with hardly any money and nowhere to sleep. (Teletext) (88265)
10.15 Gimme Shelter: A-Z - Letters From the Homeless. (Teletext) (859430)
10.30 The End of the World. A look at how the great singers of the past have influenced their modern counterparts (84081)
11.05 Gimme Shelter: Goodbye Longfellow Road. John Willis's award-winning documentary, first shown in 1977, highlighting the plight of the homeless in London's East End. (Teletext) (834371)
12.35am Raising the Roof. How recent legislation encourages people to declare themselves homeless (S) (833335)
1.30 The Dick Powell Theatre: A Swiss Affair (b/w). Spy drama (S) (83482). Ends at 2.00

VARIATIONS

- ANGLIA**
 As London except: 3.30-3.50 The Young Doctors (1050420) 5.10-5.30 *Blue Peter* (344410) 6.00 Home and Away (244371) 6.30-6.50 *Anglia News* (1050420) 7.00-7.30 *Anglia News* (1050420) 7.30-7.45 *Anglia News* (1050420) 7.45-8.00 *Anglia News* (1050420) 8.00-8.15 *Anglia News* (1050420) 8.15-8.30 *Anglia News* (1050420) 8.30-8.45 *Anglia News* (1050420) 8.45-9.00 *Anglia News* (1050420) 9.00-9.15 *Anglia News* (1050420) 9.15-9.30 *Anglia News* (1050420) 9.30-9.45 *Anglia News* (1050420) 9.45-10.00 *Anglia News* (1050420) 10.00-10.15 *Anglia News* (1050420) 10.15-10.30 *Anglia News* (1050420) 10.30-10.45 *Anglia News* (1050420) 10.45-11.00 *Anglia News* (1050420) 11.00-11.15 *Anglia News* (1050420) 11.15-11.30 *Anglia News* (1050420) 11.30-11.45 *Anglia News* (1050420) 11.45-12.00 *Anglia News* (1050420) 12.00-12.15 *Anglia News* (1050420) 12.15-12.30 *Anglia News* (1050420) 12.30-12.45 *Anglia News* (1050420) 12.45-1.00 *Anglia News* (1050420) 1.00-1.15 *Anglia News* (1050420) 1.15-1.30 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Heading for goal: Gascoigne falls to ground but still manages to watch the ball enter the net for England's second goal in their World Cup qualifier against Turkey in Izmir yesterday

England succeed in the bear pit

Turkey 0
England 2

FROM ROB HUGHES
FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT
IN IZMIR

ENGLAND joined Norway at the top of their World Cup qualifying group with a decisive victory in a bruising match here yesterday. It was a reward for headed goals from David Platt and Paul Gascoigne but a sorry afternoon for football, after which there should be repercussions from Fifa, the world's governing body.

We watched nervously, not because the Turks showed much appetite to improve their hollow goalscoring record but because this group two match was played in a malevolent atmosphere. Turkish hoodlums in the stand strated those below them, a coin striking Chris

Woods, the England goalkeeper, on the side of the head. Ian Wright and Carlton Palmer were also hit, but the only apparent injury was to their demeanour.

But Sir Bert Millichip, the chairman of the FA, said he would not make an official complaint. "We will leave the matter in the hands of Fifa's official observer from Russia," he said.

Though this vast bowl of a stadium capable of holding 70,000 was against all predictions two-thirds full, there was mercifully enough space on the concrete seating to isolate the 500 British supporters who remained apart from the behaviour of the Turks. Thank heavens for that. A ban would surely have followed had the English been drawn into the misbehaviour.

Sad to say, this creation of a bear pit in the Ataturk stadium precipitated an ugly, mis-

shapen apology for a match. Of all people, Platt, the England captain, was the first miscreant with a late lunge against Mehmet. It came in the first 60 seconds and, moments later, Bulent crudely elbowed Lee Dixon in the face.

It took nerve to win this match and England, as ever, were full of that quality. One remembers a similarly attritional night in Salonika in 1982, when Bryan Robson and Sammy Lee propelled England to a similarly character-filled victory over Greece.

In the sixth minute, Platt scored his tenth goal in ten matches for England, his seventeenth in all. It came, almost inevitably, from a piece of foul play. Tugay had pushed over Wright on the right touchline, John Barnes floated over the free kick and Platt, unchallenged, scored with a stooping header from eight yards.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Norway	4	3	1	0	15	2	7
England	4	3	1	0	13	1	7
Holland	5	3	1	1	15	6	7
Poland	2	1	1	0	3	2	3
Turkey	6	1	1	4	6	12	3
San Marino	6	0	1	5	1	28	1

RESULTS: Norway 10, San Marino 0; Norway 2, Holland 1; Poland 1, Turkey 0; San Marino 0, Norway 2; Holland 2, Poland 2; England 1, Norway 1; Turkey 4, San Marino 1; England 4, Turkey 0; Turkey 1, Holland 3; England 6, San

What would England do without his presence and leadership? In the ten games he has reached double figures, England have mustered precisely six goals from the other assembled company.

The game then disintegrated, if that were possible. Tugay needed only a couple of more seconds to take his vengeance further, with a flailing kick on the shin of Dixon. Though the battered England full back

carried on until half-time, it was from that bruised limb that he had to surrender — allowing Nigel Clough to play his first game since last year.

It meant a reshuffle, with Paul Ince moving to right back and Platt joining Clough as the fulcrum in midfield, and with Gascoigne moving up to share the attack with the largely ineffectual Wright.

By then Gascoigne, himself often invisible, had stolen the

second goal. It came in the sixth minute of injury and stoppage time added on to the first half. Engin, the Turkey goalkeeper, had by then been led away from two collisions, first with Platt and then Adams.

His hand was broken and although Hayretin, his deputy, was greeted with ecstatic applause, he did not lay a glove on the ball before he was beaten.

Ince stroked the ball into the Turkish goalmouth, the defence stood as static as the tankers anchored in Izmir harbour and Gascoigne looped his header over the forlorn reach of the new goalkeeper.

The rest was an untidy, regrettable parody of a sporting encounter. Feyyaz did occasionally show his acceleration to squeeze past Adams and, on one occasion, the England defender almost

proved that if Turkey could never put the ball in an English net, there was danger of the English doing it for them.

But despite Platt being booked for knocking the ball out of the goalkeeper's hands, despite Orhan receiving the same punishment for running on after an offside whistle, the referee was prepared to punish dissent rather than to stop players from hacking at one another with complete disregard for their professional livelihoods.

TURKEY: Engin (Fenerbahce), alt; Hayvan, Galatasaray; G. Ad (Beşiktaş); Tugay (Galatasaray), Orhan (Mithatözü); Recep (Beşiktaş), alt; Hama (Tuzluzspor); Mehmet (Beşiktaş), Bulent (Galatasaray); Oğuz (Fenerbahce), Umut (Mithatözü); Feyyaz (Beşiktaş), Orhan (Mithatözü). ENGLAND: C. Woods (Sheffield Wednesday); L. Dixon (Aston Villa); N. Clough (Nottigham Forest); A. Adams (Aston Villa); G. Walker (Sheffield Wednesday); A. Sinton (Queens Park Rangers); P. Ince (Manchester United); P. Gascoigne (Aston Villa); G. Palmer (Sheffield Wednesday); J. Barnes (Liverpool); D. Platt (Aston Villa); J. Wright (Aston Villa); L. Sharp, Manchester United. Referee: F. Bakkas (Italy).

Scant satisfaction from disciplined display

What a horrid match: enough to make you wish you had stayed at home gardening. Come to think of it, gardening, in the form of digging and pruning, is the best description of some of what happened out on the field.

England had two satisfactions, including one they would preferably have done without. Further World Cup qualifying points were welcome, even if at times it was like receiving bonus stamps at the garage for having a puncture. It was a less than authoritative performance, but worthy in its self-discipline.

What it did demonstrate, besides, was the capacity of the side to function without Gascoigne, so over-praised for his part in the home victory over Turkey. His con-

tribution now was almost invisible in the first half, until he headed the second goal on the stroke of half-time, a gift from a badly positioned substitute goalkeeper who had yet to touch the ball. In the second half, Gascoigne was just as short of pace when switched into attack in exchange with Platt and there must be a serious doubt about his immediate England future.

It was an evening when Adams, playing his 23rd match for England, was a central figure to their success. That is not necessarily an indication of the kind of game it was, for Adams's strengths are in the air rather than with his feet. Turkey, having chosen to play without Hakan, were duly out-jumped throughout the match.



DAVID MILLER
In Izmir

England, not to say the Turkish police, have cause to be grateful for the second goal, which calmed the players and the crowd, Turkey's ambitions effectively being ended. In the second half, England were able to play a more measured game, and the physical confrontation, in which they had been obliged to match Turkish bravado, was reduced.

The Turkish Football Association should be fined by Fifa for the unruly behaviour of spectators behind the main tribune, who hurled a

continuous stream of coins, cans, firecrackers and rubbish at those lower down. To their credit, the spectators were philosophical, accepting defeat before the finish with affectionate songs for their defeated team.

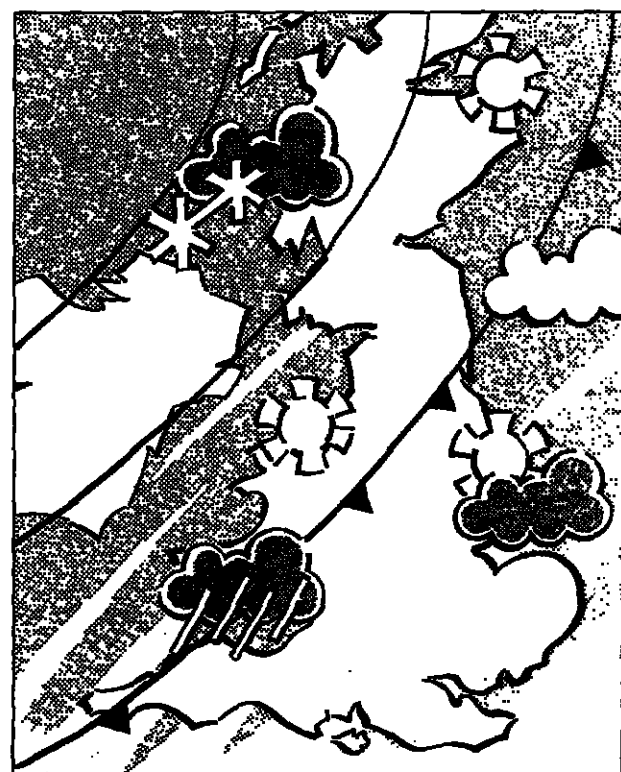
The range of questions for Graham Taylor, the England manager, remain unanswered. Little new was learned about Wright, goalless after eight matches, because he received little service. Ince and Palmer were competent against second-class opposition without

advancing their reputations. Sinton, out of position as nominal left back, was conspicuous for his ability on the ball, so that with Barnes returning to the side in place of the injured Ferdinand, England had unexpected fucny down the left side.

Barnes's performance serves merely to confuse Taylor's immediate future plans; he was one of the better players. None can envy Taylor his selection dilemma for the next match, at home to Holland at the end of the month. Whether to drop Gascoigne; if he does, whether to play Platt up front or in midfield; whether to retain Barnes; how to utilise Sinton's skills. Holland have not been playing well, but will pose many more problems than Turkey last evening. The best you could say

about England in this unpleasant match was that they were workmanlike. They usually are, but it will require more than this to reach the finals.

Far too many times England surrendered possession with poor passing, which multiplies the problems for any side. The courage in challenging for the ball, in being competitive, is all very well, but matches against the good teams are won by what you do with the ball having gained it. Under pressure and often without support, Wright, for example, too often attempted ambitious moves when it would have been better to play the simple pass and retain possession until reinforcements arrived. England continue to be hopeful when tactically they would do better to be careful.



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8 Escaping (2,3,3)
9 Uproar (6)
10 Keg (6)
11 Indistinct (4)
12 Emergency treatment (5,3)
15 Great labours hero (8)
17 Concern over trivialities (4)
18 Shriek (6)
21 Sullen and ill-tempered (6)
22 Easy victory (4-4)
23 Discard (4)

- DOWN:
1 Common people (8)
2 Careless (6)
3 Braggart (8)
4 Counterfoil (4)
5 Rummage (6)
6 Stratagem (4)
13 Remembrance shrub (8)
14 Positively demanded (8)
16 Impertinent (6)
17 Large wood (6)
19 Fellow (4)
20 Shift (4)

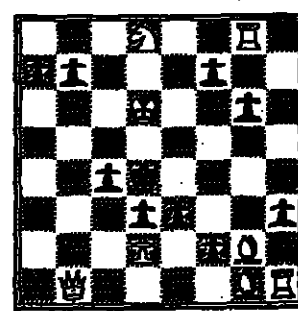
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10 Nut 11 Tight spot 12 Folly 13 Recap 16 Britannia
18 Mac 20 Rib 21 Originate 22 Endures 23 Mason
DOWN: 1 Acorn 2 Recital 3 Dorothy Lamour 4 Cringe
5 Vegetarianism 6 Mop up 7 Nonstop 12 Faberge 14 Com-
pass 15 Undies 17 In bed 19 Clean

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By Raymond Keene, Chess Correspondent

Today's position is a puzzle by Sam Loyd, one of the greatest problem composers. The stipulation is white to play and give mate in one move.



Solution on page 42

By PHILIP HOWARD

TAILISM
a. Fetish for bottoms
b. Following the masses
c. Taoist theology

SUCK

a. The approach to a weir
b. A ploughshare
c. A free drink

Answers on page 42